THE ADVENTURE ZONE
Here There Be Gerblins
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:01
First Second
New York

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Published by First Second
First Second is an imprint of Roaring Brook Press, a division
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Library of Congress Control Number: 2017946143

eISBN: 978-1-250-21366-2

First edition, 2018
Book design by Andrew Arnold

Penciled with a 2B pencil-style tool in Photoshop. Inked with a brush-style
digital nib in Clip Studio Paint and colored digitally in Photoshop.

Introduction

When it comes to *The Adventure Zone,* and the McElroys as a whole, I'll admit that I've been late to the game.

My friends have adored them for years. But I'm stubborn, so it wasn't until November of 2016 that I finally caved to peer pressure and began sampling their unique flavor of artisanal auditory delectation.

I listened to an episode of *My Brother, My Brother and Me*, and the McElroys hit my life like a new religion. Within two months I'd listened to more than 250 episodes of *MBMBaM*. And I would have made it through the entirety of their archive shortly thereafter. . .

. . . but then I discovered *The Adventure Zone*.

If learning about *MBMBaM* was like a religious conversion, *The Adventure Zone* was like suddenly falling in love. Plus getting hit by lightning. Plus coffee. Plus hugging Lin-Manuel Miranda while eating an ice-cream sundae.

Okay. I'm not doing a good job of this. Let me start again.

For those of you who may not know, I'm a fantasy author. My books have been translated into thirty-five languages and sell mil- lions of copies all over the world. I mention this not to brag, but because it's the easiest way to prove I know a little bit about stories. I story for a living. I'm pretty good at it.

So let me say, honestly and sincerely, that *The Adventure Zone* is some of the finest storytelling I have ever experienced. In any genre. Ever.

I also know a little bit about role-playing. I've played D&D since 1982. Worked my way through every edition. (Except 4th.) These days I play D&D in packed stadiums with Acquisitions Incorpo- rated. I guest star in *Critical Role*. I've visited the D&D offices, and we're currently working on some secret collaborations together.

With that in mind, I'd like to say that the McElroys have done something with D&D I have never seen before. They've done some- thing I didn't know it was possible to do. They've made something magical, and loving, and kind, and beautiful. The world is better because this story is in it.

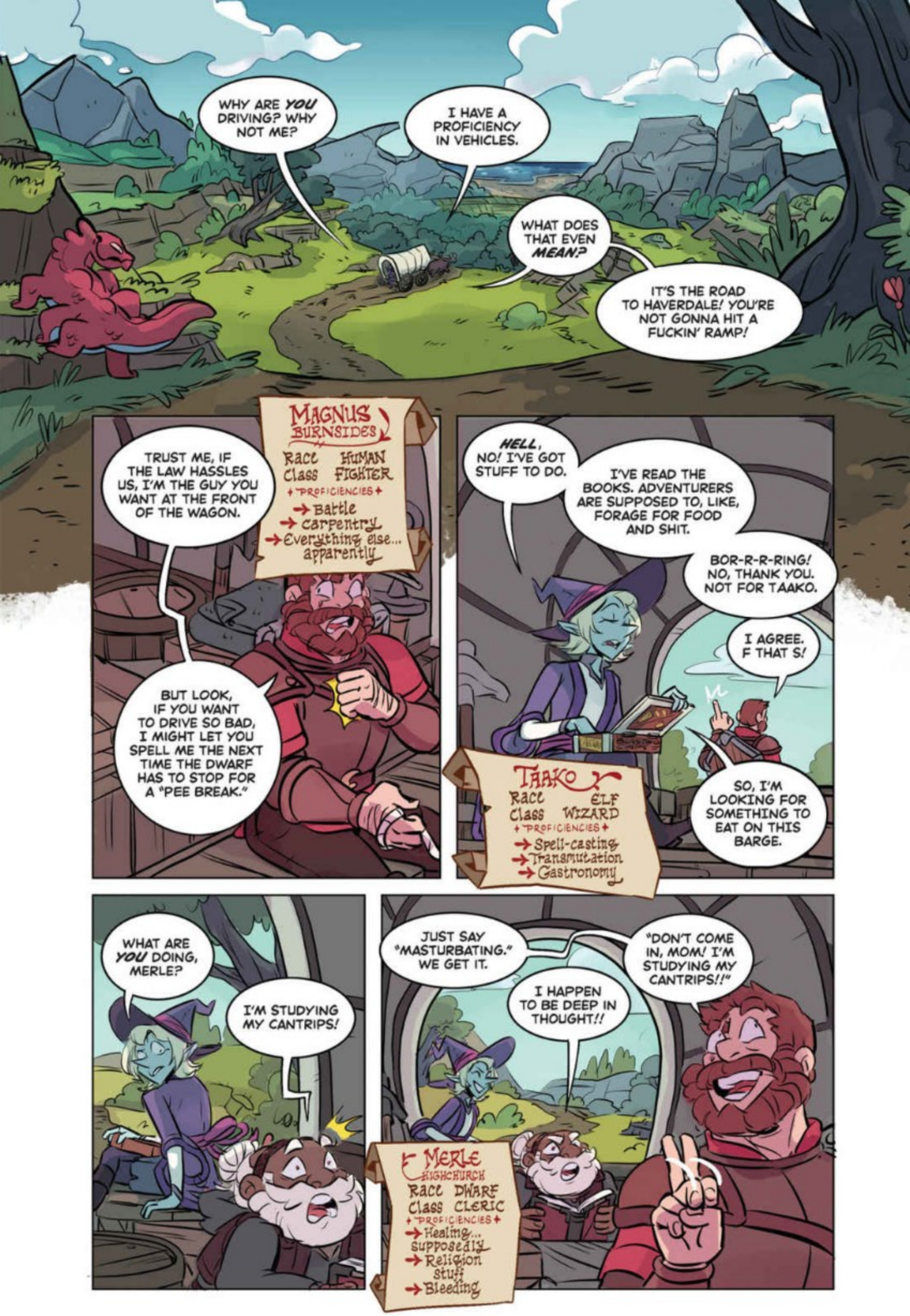
I've listened to the entirety of *The Adventure Zone* more than three times over the last eight months. I'm not just a fan, I'm a missionary. I'm a zealot. I'm not saying I'm working on my Merle cosplay or anything . . . But yeah. Fine. I'll admit it, I'm working on my cosplay.

What you hold in your hands is a unique experiment. A brave, even remarkable thing. This comic is an attempt to translate pure audio improvisational storytelling into a visual medium. I've done some work in comics, and I can't think of a harder transition for a story to make.

And I adore what the McElroys and their brilliant collaborator— co-adaptor and artist Carey Pietsch—have done here. Not just in the reflected light of my affection for *The Adventure Zone* podcast, but as an entity distinct unto itself. I already know the story, but there are surprises here. I know what's going to happen, but I love seeing these good, good boys beginning their marvelous adventure all over again.

—Pat Rothfuss
November 2017

Chapter 1


WHY ARE YOU DRIVING? WHY NOT ME?
I HAVE A PROFICIENCY IN VEHICLES.
WHAT DOES THAT EVEN MEAN?
IT'S THE ROAD TO HAVERDALE! YOU'RE NOT GONNA HIT A FUCKIN' RAMP!
TRUST ME, IF THE LAW HASSLES US, I'M THE GUY YOU WANT AT THE FRONT OF THE WAGON.
BUT LOOK, IF YOU WANT TO DRIVE SO BAD, I MIGHT LET YOU SPELL ME THE NEXT TIME THE DWARF HAS TO STOP FOR A "PEE BREAK."
MAGNUS BURNSIDES
Race HUMAN
Class FIGHTER
PROFICIENCIES
Battle
Carpentry
Everything else... apparently
HELL, NO! I'VE GOT STUFF TO DO.
I'VE READ THE BOOKS. ADVENTURERS ARE SUPPOSED TO, LIKE, FORAGE FOR FOOD AND SHIT.
BOR-R-R-RING! NO, THANK YOU. NOT FOR TAAKO.
I AGREE. F THAT S!
SO, I'M LOOKING FOR SOMETHING TO EAT ON THIS BARGE.
TAAKO
Race ELF
Class WIZARD
PROFICIENCIES
Spell-casting
Transmutation
Gastronomy
WHAT ARE YOU DOING, MERLE?
I'M STUDYING MY CANTRIPS!
JUST SAY "MASTURBATING." WE GET IT.
I HAPPEN TO BE DEEP IN THOUGHT!!
"DON'T COME IN, MOM! I'M STUDYING MY CANTRIPS!!"
MERLE HIGHCHURCH
Race DWARF
Class CLERIC
PROFICIENCIES
Healing... supposedly
Religion stuff
Bleeding

I'M VERY CONFLICTED! I DON'T TRUST THIS BOGARD GUY!
HE HIRED US FOR THIS JOB! AND HE'S YOUR COUSIN!
EXACTLY! I KNOW HIM PRETTY WELL!
IF IT WEREN'T FOR ME, HE'D BE THE BIGGEST ASSHOLE IN OUR FAMILY.
AND THAT SO-CALLED "BODYGUARD," BARRY, AIN'T NO DAY AT THE BEACH, EITHER.
WHY DIDN'T THEY JUST TAKE ALL THIS WITH THEM INSTEAD OF HAVING US HAUL IT?
I CAN'T FIND ANYTHING EDIBLE, THAT'S FOR SURE.
A BUNCH OF MINING STUFF, SHIT TO BLOW UP OTHER SHIT.
THE ONLY MINE IN THESE PARTS WAS LOST A DECADE AGO.
AND THE WAY YOUR COUSIN KEPT SAYING "THIS IS THE LAST JOB YOU'LL EVER NEED! THE LAST JOB YOU'LL EVER NEED!"
CAUTION
I GET THE WHOLE "WINK-WINK YOU'RE GONNA BE RICH" VIBE, BUT IT CAME ACROSS AS KIND OF MURDER-Y.
I AM... UNEASY.
THEN YOU ARE JUST GONNA LOVE THIS.
IT'S KIND OF TOUGH TO SEE...
...BUT I THINK THE SHIT HAS GONE SOUTH.

POP!
I NEED YOU TO MAKE A PERCEPTION CH–
SHIT!
HOLD, VILLAIN!
AUGH!
IT'S THE BIG ONE!!
GUYS! IT'S ME: GRIFFIN! YOUR D.M.!
GRIFFIN McElroy
RACE ACTUAL HUMAN
CLASS DUNGEON MASTER
PROFICIENCIES
Podcasting
Karaoke
Weaving a rich tapestry of drama
HOO
HAA HOO
DUDE! YOU SCARED THE BEJEEZUS OUTTA ME!
SIMPLE TABLETOP RULES
SUCK IT UP, BECAUSE THIS IS THE WAY THE GAME WORKS.
IT'S DANGEROUS AS HELL OUT THERE. YOU THREE BETTER COWBOY UP.
PHEW
PAT PAT
WONDERFUL. WONDERFUL NEWS.

ALL RIGHT, I'M PERCEPTING!

I SEE A COUPLE OF DEAD HORSES...
...SOME BAGS... A LOT OF BLOOD... AND THAT'S ABOUT IT.

WHERE ARE BOGARD AND HIS BODYGUARD?
WE COULD ASK THOSE TWO GUYS.

GERBLINS, ATTACK!!
THEIR WAR CRY ISN'T VERY CREATIVE.
OH, MAN! WHAT'S THAT THING I CAN DO THAT'S A FLAME AND IS REAL HOLY?
...YOU MEAN "HOLY FLAME"?
THAT WOULD BE IT!
FOOSH!
EXTREME

FWOOSH!
AAAAGH!!
SPSHHHZZZ!
WHAZZ
KER-ASH!!
FUCK!
IT'S OUR FIRST KILL!!
AND TAAKO'S THE ONE WHO PUT US ON THE BOARD!
THE... YOU KNOW, KILLING BOARD.
AT LEAST HE'S NOT ON FIRE ANYMORE! THAT WAS THOUGHTFUL OF YOU!
YOU KNOW, IF YOU HAD BOTHERED TO TALK TO THEM YOU WOULD HAVE REALIZED THAT THEY WERE THE WELCOME COMMITTEE. THEY JUST WANTED HUGS.
KIDDING. THEY DEFINITELY WANTED TO KILL YOU.
...AND ONE STILL DOES!

SO, SHOULD I JUMP DOWN AND CHARGE HIM?
HE'S KIND OF FAR AWAY...
DO I TOSS MY SHIELD AT HIM?
OLD-SCHOOL CAP STYLE! I LIKE IT!
HEY!
I'M ATTACKING HERE!
IT'S MY TURN, ASSHOLE, AND I'M HAVING A SERIOUS DISCUSSION WITH THE M.D.!
IT'S "D.M.," ACTUALLY...BUT WHATEVER. GO ON.
WE'LL BE WITH YOU IN JUST A SEC. COOL?
OH, SURE.
COOL, COOL.
SO, DO I HURL MY BATTLE-AX?
IT WOULD TAKE A HELL OF A THROW....
SO MANY CHOICES.

LET'S SEE HOW *THIS* WORKS.
SLICE
FOLLOW-THROUGH WAS A LITTLE OFF. MAYBE I NEED TO ADJUST MY GRIP.
I DON'T KNOW,
I DON'T THINK YOU COULD HAVE CUT HIM IN HALF ANY HARDER THAN THAT.
HEY, GUYS!
SORRY I'M LATE. TRAFFIC IN THE BRUSH WAS A BEAST!
DRIP
DRIP
ALL RIGHT!! LET'S DO THIS TH–

OH, GOD, NO!
MY FRIENDS!
SWEET FANTASY JESUS! NOT KEVIN!
SOB
HE JUST HAD A KID!!
SNRK
TWAANG!
THUNK!
....YIKES.
HEY! DID YOU KNOW OUR CANVAS IS ON FIRE?!
DON'T LET MY STUFF BURN!!
WHAT ABOUT–
FUCK BOGARD'S SHIT!
LIKE THE EXPLOSIVES AND BLASTING CAPS?
FINE! SAVE THAT! BUT THEN MY STUFF!
AND WHO'S GONNA GET THAT GUY?

BELIEVE IT OR NOT, I CAN INSTANTLY SNUFF OUT A CANDLE, TORCH, OR SMALL CAMPFIRE. I THINK I CAN HANDLE THE CARAVAN.
GO ON. KILL THAT GUY. HAVE YOUR FUN.
NOW, YOU NEED TO DO SOME KIND OF INCANTATION, I GUESS.
SOME REALLY TIGHT SHIT.
MM-HM.
THROW-IUS BLANKET-US!
foof!
PERFECT. WONDERFUL. TOLKIEN-ESQUE.
HUP!
GEH!
WHUNK!!
OOH, SOUNDS LIKE YOU GOT SOME MEAT THERE!

YOU GUYS JUST WON YOUR FIRST FIGHT! WITH FUCKING APLOMB!
ONE KILL EACH!
THEY NEVER EVEN TOUCHED US! I ALMOST FEEL BAD.
WE SHOULD LOOT THE DEAD GERBLINS!

WHICH ONE YOU GONNA LOOT THERE, SPARKY?
THE FLASH-FROZEN ONE IN A MILLION PIECES? THE ONE CUT IN HALF AND COVERED WITH GOO?
OR THE ONE LOST IN THE WEEDS?

I SHOULD AT LEAST TAKE THIS PRETTY SWEET BOW, RIGHT?
AFTER ALL, I HAVE A PROFICIENCY IN RANGED WEAPONS.
OF COURSE YOU DO.

HERE, DWARF. I FOUND YOUR GROSS AX IN THE GERBLIN YOU MERCILESSLY KILLED.
FIND ANYTHING ELSE, FRIEND TAAKO?
THWANG!

NOPE. NOTHING. NOT A THING, FRIEND MAGNUS.
THEN WE SHOULD INSPECT WHERE THE ATTACK TOOK PLACE!

LET US NOT TARRY!
I'M WITH YOU, MY MAN! I AM ALWAYS ANTI-TARRYING!

STILL WARM. THIS DIDN'T HAPPEN VERY LONG AGO.
NO BOGARD, NO BARRY, AND NO MAP.
AND WHAT THE HELL DID HE NEED A MAP FOR? HE KNOWS THE WAY TO HAVERDALE!

SO WHAT DO WE DO NOW?
"AND THAT WAS THE SAD, BORING END OF THEIR FIRST MISSION!"

I THINK THIS CHANGES THINGS!
IT MAKES NO SENSE TO DELIVER THE WAGON TO HAVERDALE IF BOGARD ISN'T EVEN THERE.
BUT WE DON'T KNOW *WHERE* HE IS!

IF YOU GUYS ARE DONE...
...WE COULD JUST FOLLOW THOSE DRAG MARKS INTO THE BRUSH?

MAGNUS RUSHES HEADLONG INTO THE BRUSH!
WAIT! WHAT ABOUT OUR STUFF?!

OH, DON'T *WORRY*, MAGNUS! WE'LL TAKE CARE OF *EVERYTHING!!*
COOL. THANKS. BYE!
YOU JUST RUN OFF AND LEAVE US TO TAKE CARE OF THE WAGON! TOTALLY COOL! SUPER COOL.

ONE BORING SLOG THROUGH THE WOODS LATER...
DID YOU STOP AND PEE, OR WHAT?
GIMME A BREAK.
SO WHAT HAPPENED TO MAGNUS CHARGING AHEAD? HOW COME YOU WAITED FOR US?
MAGNUS BELIEVES IN SHARING THE GLORY WITH COMRADES!
YOU'RE SURE MAGNUS ISN'T A TEENSY BIT AFRAID OF DARK, SPOOKY CAVES?
HAH! MAGNUS FEARS NOTHING!
IT'S JUST...REALLY, REALLY DARK, AND I DON'T HAVE VERY GOOD NIGHT VISION.
NO WORRIES! I'VE GOT GREAT NIGHT VISION!
ME, TOO!
BUT...BUT... FELLAS...
OH, DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT, SCAREDY-CAT! I'LL TAKE CARE OF IT.
FLIBBITY-FLAMMITY-FLOO!!
BITCHIN'.

SNAARRL
GROWL
THAT SOUNDS LIKE...WOLVES?

KLANK KA CHANK
AND A LOT OF SCARY CHAINS.
KLUNK KA CHUNK
YOU GUYS DO REALIZE THAT'S KIND OF THE WAY THIS WORKS, RIGHT? I FILL A CHAMBER WITH SCARY SHIT, AND YOU FIGHT IT.

ALL RIGHT, FELLAS. LET'S THINK ABOUT THIS...
MAGNUS BELIEVES THINKING IS FOR OTHER PEOPLE!
HE TENDS MORE TOWARD–

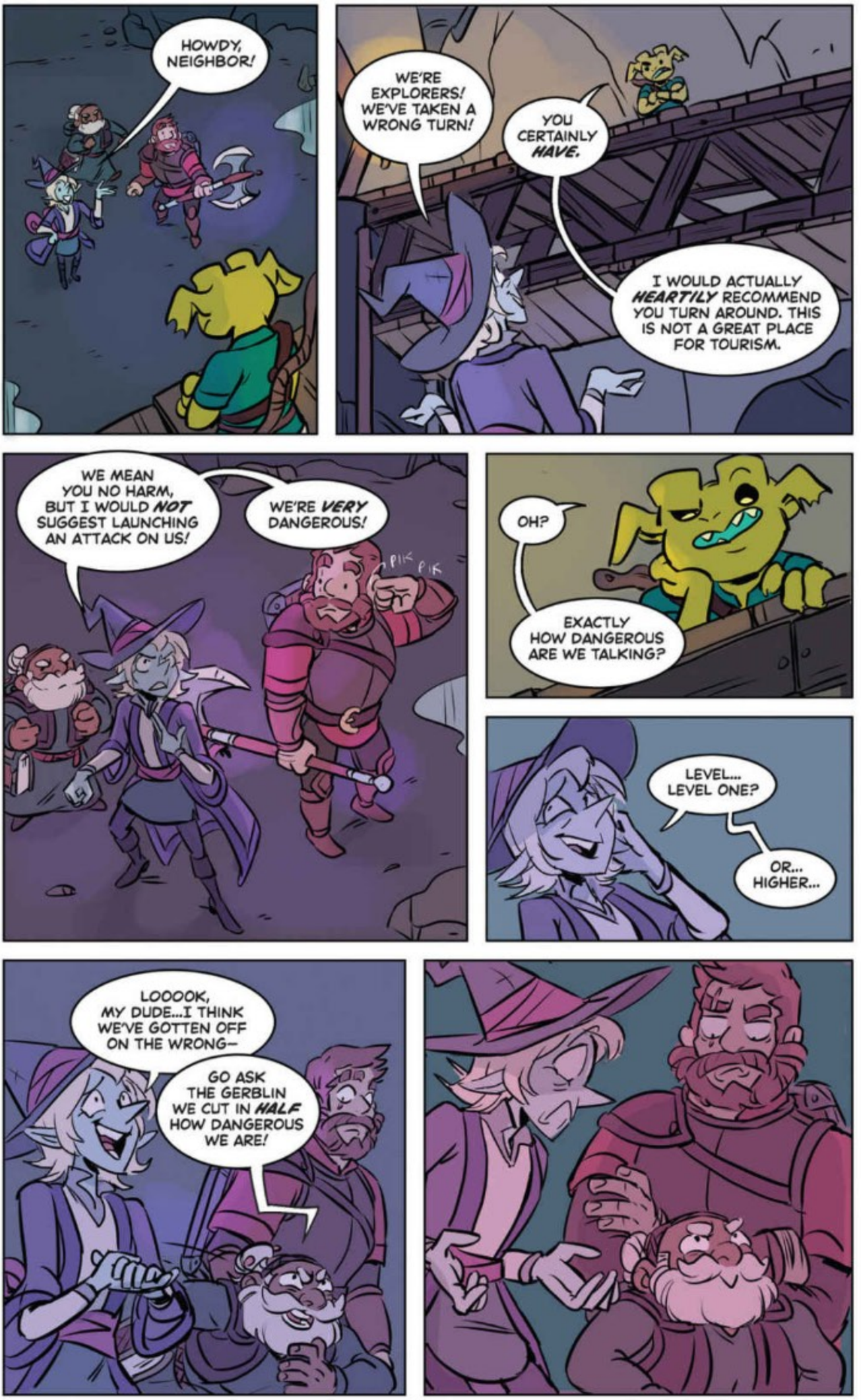
–ACTION!!

I GUESS WE SHOULD GO AFTER HIM...?
NAH.
TAAKO'S GOOD OUT HERE.

"GO TO HAVERDALE. DELIVER A WAGON. HAVE A FEW LAUGHS."
I SHOULD HAVE STAYED ON THE BEACH.

—AND THEN THE LIGHTS COME UP, AND THERE I AM,
STANDING UNDER A MAGNIFICENT BANNER THAT READS:
SIZZLE IT UP WITH TAAKON
SO, IT'S A SHOW...ABOUT COOKING?
MMMRR??
IT'S ABOUT LIFE!
GRRRRRR
...TOLD THROUGH THE PERSPECTIVE OF FINE DINING.
WELL... THAT SOUNDS...
GRRARGH!!
CRASH
...NIFTY.
CLATTER
CLUNK
TAP TAP TAP TAP
SO! HOW WAS THE OMINOUS CLANKING CAVERN?
TAP TAP
I DON'T WANT TO TALK ABOUT IT.
THAT'S OKAY,
I REALLY DIDN'T GIVE A SHIT.

HECKIE DARN. CAVE-IN. CAN'T GET THROUGH THAT.
OH, WELL. MISSION OVER. WE GAVE IT A GOOD SHOT—
NOT SO FAST.
WITH MY REMARKABLE UPPER-BODY STRENGTH, I CAN HAVE THOSE ROCKS MOVED IN...THREE DAYS, TOPS.
ORRRRRRR—
I GOT YOUR "PERCEPTION CHECK" RIGHT HERE.
HELLO, FRIEND!!
WHO'S DOWN THERE?


HOWDY, NEIGHBOR!
WE'RE EXPLORERS! WE'VE TAKEN A WRONG TURN!
YOU CERTAINLY HAVE.
I WOULD ACTUALLY HEARTILY RECOMMEND YOU TURN AROUND. THIS IS NOT A GREAT PLACE FOR TOURISM.
WE MEAN YOU NO HARM, BUT I WOULD NOT SUGGEST LAUNCHING AN ATTACK ON US!
WE'RE VERY DANGEROUS!
PIK PIK
OH?
EXACTLY HOW DANGEROUS ARE WE TALKING?
LEVEL... LEVEL ONE?
OR... HIGHER...
LOOOOK, MY DUDE...I THINK WE'VE GOTTEN OFF ON THE WRONG–
GO ASK THE GERBLIN WE CUT IN HALF HOW DANGEROUS WE ARE!

OH, EXCELLENT! I WAS JUST STARTING TO ESTABLISH A RAPPORT!
WELL PLAYED!
TO BE FAIR, HE WASN'T AS COOL AS YOU ARE!

I'M PICKING UP ON A REAL AGGRESSIVE VIBE FROM DOWN THERE.
HERE YOU ARE IN OUR HIDEOUT.

I DON'T KNOW WHO YOU ARE OR WHAT YOU'RE DOING.
YOU ARE MAKING ME ANXIOUS.

I'M... UNPLEASANT WHEN I'M ANXIOUS.

CAST A SPELL...THAT WILL PUSH HIM...OFF... THE...BRIDGE.
EVERYTHING'S CHILL, MY DUDE.

WE'RE LOOKING FOR A FRIEND OF OURS? HE WAS TAKEN AND HIS HORSES WERE KILLED?
PUSH... HIM... OFF!
YEAH, WE DID THAT.
IS THERE A PROBLEM?
HEY, SID! THERE ARE SOME GUYS HERE ABOUT THE DEAD HORSES!
HORSES?
THE ONES WE SHOT.
OH, RIGHT! GOOD TIMES.
LET'S GET CRANKIN'!
CRANK
CRANK
KLAAAANGG
rrrruummblee
THAT'S DISCONCERTING.

GET BEHIND ME!
THWAANG
FAITH SHIELD!
CHHOKK
SEE, NOW THAT'S IMPRESSIVE!
WHAZZZ
WOW!

YOU WEREN'T KIDDING!
YOU ARE DANGEROUS!

SSPLOOOOSH

rumble rumble
WELL, THIS KIND OF SUCKS.

WE'VE GOT TO CLIMB, BOYS!
CLIMB FOR YOUR LIVES!!
SMELL YA LATER, FELLAS.
SLIP!
WHUMP
OH, I'M GONNA HAVE TO GIVE YOU TEN EMBARRASSMENT POINTS OF DAMAGE.
I PEED A LITTLE.
ANNNND TEN PSYCHIC DAMAGE.
WONDERFUL! NOW I'VE GOT A PEE STAIN!
OH, I WOULDN'T WORRY TOO MUCH ABOUT THAT...
I'M PRETTY SURE IT'S GOING TO WASH OUT.

GLUG
SPOOO
SH
WHAMF
PTBBBT!
BAMPHH
DON'T WORRY, GUYS!
I'M PERFECTLY FINE!
HEY, JEFF!
DID WE GET THEM?

EVERYTHING'S GOOD!
YOU GUYS GO AHEAD! TAA–
ahem
–JEFF IS GOOD OUT HERE!
BE SURE TO GRAB SOMETHING TO SHOW G'NASH!
MANAGEMENT IS REALLY PUTTING THE HEAT ON US TO BRING IN MORE BATTLE TROPHIES!
SURE, SURE! I'LL CHOP OFF THEIR FEET AND BRING THEM!
DAMN, JEFF!
I JUST MEANT A WATCH OR SOMETHING!
YOU'VE GOTTEN SO DARK SINCE YOU BROKE UP WITH MARLENE!
YOU REALLY NEED TO TALK TO SOMEBODY!

EMBARRASSING, THIS IS.

I FEEL LOUSY. LIKE I'M DOWN TO THREE HIT POINTS.
I NEED TO TAKE A KNEE AFTER HAULING YOUR SORRY ASS UP THE WALL.
SNIFF–
IS THAT...

SNIFF SNIFF–
...ROASTING MEAT?

I KNOW THAT SMELL!!
THAT'S MY RECIPE FOR HAUNCH Á LA TAAKO!!
IT WAS IN MY VERY FIRST COOKBOOK!
Perfection:
COOK THE TAAKO WAY

YOU KIDS CATCH YOUR BREATH. I GOTTA CHECK THIS OUT.

THAT, MY DUDES, IS TRUE HAUTE CUISINE!
GROOSH

I JUST HOPE IT ISN'T HOT COUSIN.

Chapter 2

IF THESE ASSHATS ARE USING MY RECIPE AND DIDN'T BUY MY COOKBOOK, I WILL SUE THE SHIT OUT OF THEM!
SNIFF! SNIFF!
OH, NO!
OH, GOD!
THOSE LOUSY BASTARDS!!
THEY FORGOT THE OREGANO!!
I SWEAR, YAHVVIE!
HE SAID HE WAS GOING TO CUT OFF THEIR FEET!
NO, YOU KNOW WHAT?
I KIND OF LIKE IT.

THERE'S A BIG CAVERN THINGIE FULL OF RECIPE-STEALING GERBLINS.
WOULD YOU SAY IT IS SPOOKY...OR BEAUTIFUL?
OR SPOOKILY BEAUTIFUL?
OR BEAUTIFULLY SPOOKY?
IF YOU WERE A GERBLIN YOU WOULD ACTUALLY FIND IT A PRETTY CHILL DEN TO, LIKE, HANG OUT IN.
THERE'S ALSO SOME DUDE. NOT A DWARF DUDE, BUT A DUDE DUDE. I'M TRYING TO THINK WHO HE LOOKS LIKE.
JOHN GOODMAN!
...NO, JOHN STAMOS.
NO...THE EXACT MEDIAN BETWEEN JOHN GOODMAN AND JOHN STAMOS...
...TOM ARNOLD!
LISTEN, WE ALL KNOW YOU GUYS ARE GONNA JUST GO IN THERE NO MATTER WHAT I SAY...
CRACK!
POP!
SNAP
CRACKLE
—SO I'M NOT DESCRIBING ANY MORE SHIT IN THE ROOM. JUST COME ON.

POP!

POP!

POP!

HUDDLE

I'M THINKING THE DUDE DUDE IS BARRY WHAT'S-HIS-NAME THAT YOUR COUSIN WAS TALKING ABOUT.

I SHOULD RUN UP THE STAIRWAY AND VALIANTLY RESCUE BARRY.
I'LL GET THE GUARD UP TOP.
AND I'LL SKRAG THE THREE AT THE CAMPFIRE.

ALL THREE?
HEY, WE'RE FOUR-AND-OH AGAINST THESE DICKHEADS!
PIECE OF CAKE.

ADVENTURERS ASSEMBLE!
NOPE! NO!! STOP WITH THAT SHIT, JUST STOP WITH IT!!
WTF!
OW! OW! OW!
WHUNK! WHUNK! WHUNK!
THIS IS NOT GOOD.
WHAT? HE'S NOT DEAD? YOU TOOK THREE SHOTS!!
WELL, FORGIVE THE HELL OUT OF ME! WE CAN'T ALL BE DEATH-DEALING MACHINES!
CHA-WHUNK!
FORTUNATELY, ONE OF US IS.

WHAMM!
SPLAT!
MY HAUNCH!!
THAT WAS MY GRANDFATHER'S HAUNCH!!
UHH, GOT ANOTHER NOT-DEAD ONE HERE!
I HAVE SO FEW PLEASURES IN LIFE!
BAM!

YOU JUST HAD TO GO AND SHOOT POOR OLD SID, DIDN'T YOU?
WHAT DID HE EVER DO TO YOU?
WELL, THERE'S THAT WHOLE "TRIED TO DROWN US" THING.
ARE YOU ALWAYS SO JUDGMENTAL?!
SLICE!
HEY, ASSHOLES!!!
PUT...
...YOUR WEAPONS...
...DOWN.

IF WE DO AN AUDIOBOOK, WE'LL ASK KELSEY GRAMMER TO DO A GUEST SPOT AS THIS GUY'S VOICE!
WHAT? HE SOUNDS HOW I WANT HIM TO SOUND, OKAY?
IT'S MY DUNGEON.
THE THREE OF YOU STRIKE ME AS ...BUSINESSMEN.
IS THIS A FAIR ASSUMPTION?
VERY PERCEPTIVE, GERBLIN GUY!
I LOVE DOING BUSINESS-TYPE SHIT!
I DON'T THINK ANYONE IN THIS ROOM WANTS TO GET STABBED ANY MORE THAN WE ALREADY HAVE, SO I'VE A PROPOSITION FOR YOU.
I WILL LET YOU LEAVE, ALIVE AND UNHARMED, WITH BARRY BLUEJEANS HERE.
IF YOU DO ONE TEENSY-TINY THING FOR ME.
HE LOOKS SORT OF UN-UNHARMED TO ME.
WHAT'S THE TEENSY-TINY FAVOR?
I WANT YOU TO MURDER MY BOSS.

I WANT YOU TO HELP ME HELP YOU TO HELP ME.
SO WHAT'S IT GONNA TAKE TO GET YOU INTO THIS FINE CONTRACT TO ASSASSINATE MY EMPLOYER TODAY?
AND WHAT IS YOUR NAME, SIR?
HOW RUDE OF ME!
I AM YAHVVIE.
Yahvvie
Race Gerblin
Class Pain in the ass
PROFICIENCIES
Deception
Betrayal
Career advancement
GREAT. YAHVVIE, WHY DO YOU WANT YOUR BOSS DEAD?
OUR BOSS– G'NASH–JUST GOT TRANSFERRED OVER FROM OUR OTHER OFFICE ON SLOUGH ROAD. LET'S JUST SAY SOME OF US IN THIS INSTITUTION ARE...
...NOT BIG FANS.
TROPHIES from KILLS GIVE MANAGEMENT THRILLS!
FUCK THAT GUY!
FOR REAL!
SO WHAT'LL IT BE?
TAKE CARE OF THIS LITTLE HONEY-DO FOR ME?
...OR I KICK BARRY BLUEJEANS OFF THE EDGE, AND WE START FIGHTING AGAIN.

I DON'T SEE WHAT WE GET OUT OF THIS.
WE HAVE TO FIND BOGARD, AND WE NEED THIS BARRY BLUEJEANS GUY TO DO IT.
BUT–
EVERYONE NEEDS A BARRY BLUEJEANS!!
WE'RE NOT TALKING TO YOU!
VERY WELL, YAKOV–
YAHVVIE.
YAHVVIE. WE ARE ALL IN ONE ACCORD–
NO WE'RE NOT!
WE WILL TAKE CARE OF THIS..."G'NASH"... FOR YOU.
OH, HOW PEACHY.
HE'S JUST RIGHT ACROSS THE OVERPASS.
GOODBYE!
HAVE FUN!!
ENJOY YOUR MURDER SPREE!

GUYS, I THINK THIS MIGHT BE A TRAP.
YEAH, WELL, NO SHIT!
GOOD. JUST SO WE'RE ON THE SAME PAGE.

BUT...
WE'RE STILL GONNA DO IT?

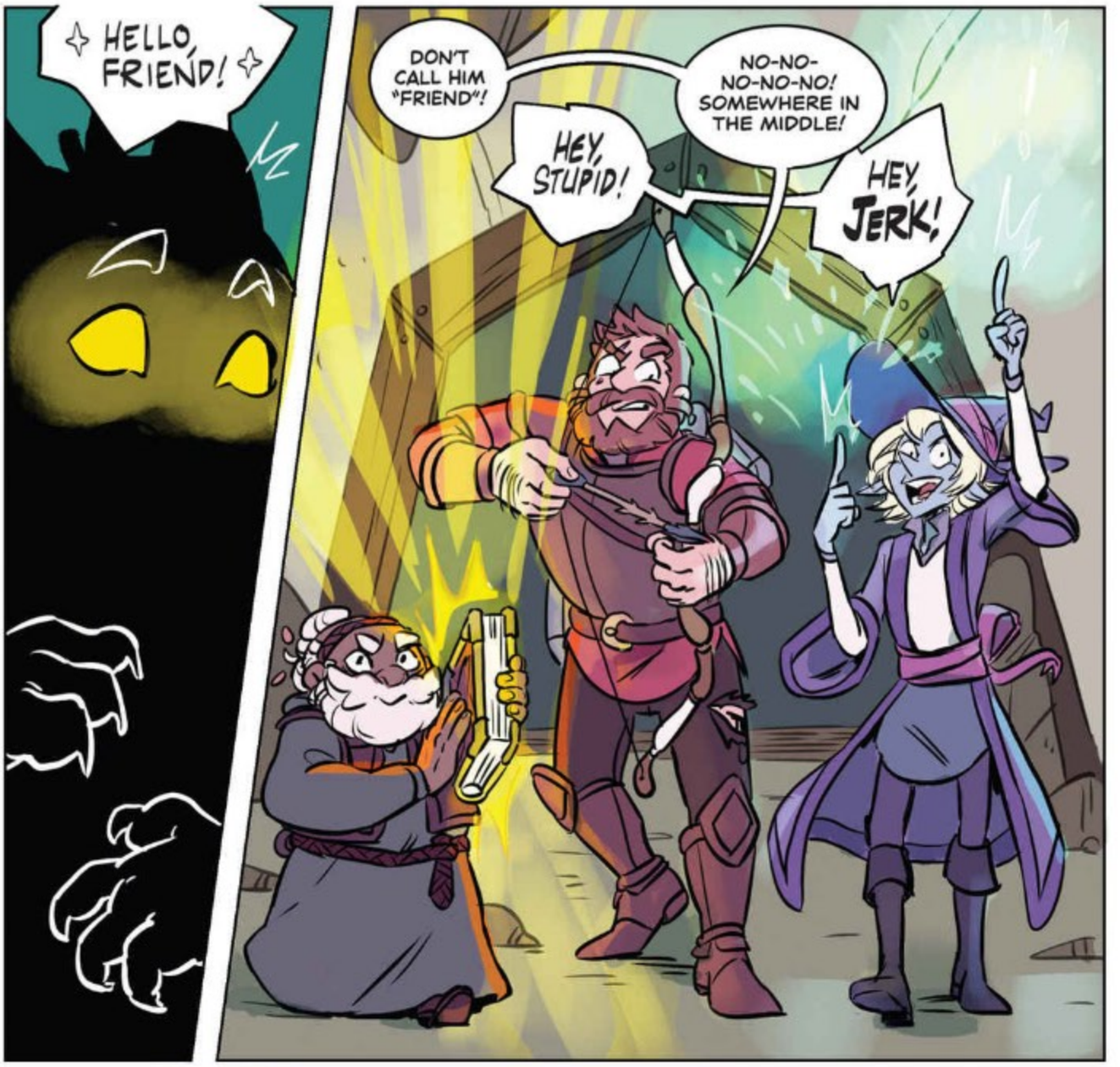
BUMP!
dodge!
YUP.
FIRST WE TAKE CARE OF THIS G'NASH GUY...

THEN GO BACK AND GET YAHVVIE?
OH, YEAH, MY DUDE–

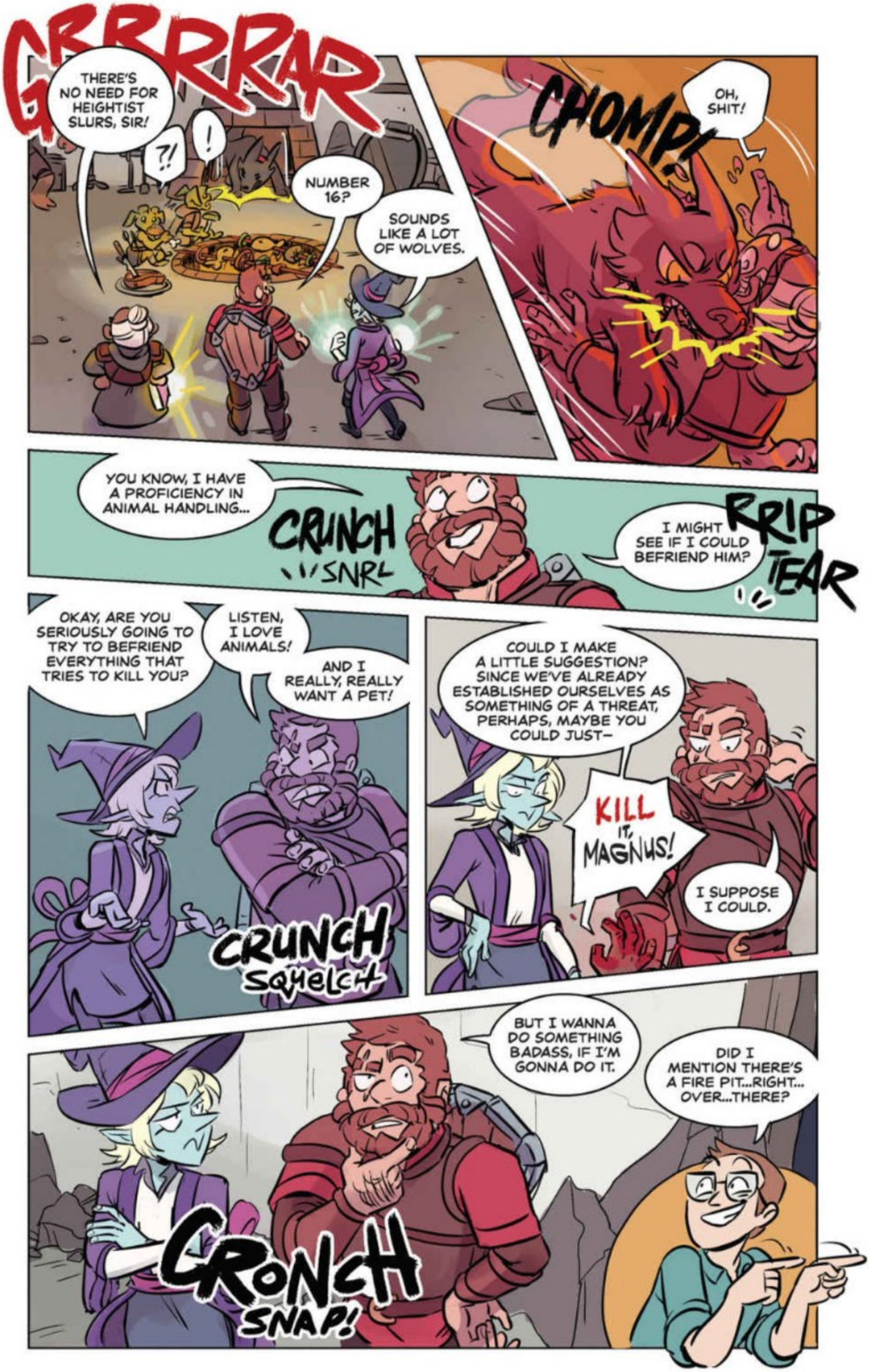
–WE'RE KILLIN' EVERYBODY.

RAAAWWRR!!
OKAY, MAYBE NOT KILL EVERYBODY.
WELL, SOMEONE SOUNDS VERY G'NASH-Y.
I WOULD SAY HE SOUNDS G'NASH-ISH.
I DON'T WANT TO CAST ASPERSIONS, AND I DON'T WANT TO JUDGE A BOOK BY ITS COVER, BUT THAT CERTAINLY SOUNDS LIKE THE VOICE OF A CREATURE THAT WOULD PROBABLY BE KNOWN AS G'NASH.
OKAY, LISTEN, GUYS. HERE'S WHAT I'M THINKING:
WHAT IF, RATHER THAN TRYING TO FIGHT G'NASH, HOW ABOUT WE SEE IF WE CAN TRADE THE INFORMATION THAT WE HAVE...IN EXCHANGE FOR BARRY BLUEJEANS.
WE TELL HIM HE HAS SOMEONE IN HIS ORGANIZATION WHO ASKED US TO KILL HIM.
WE'LL LET HIM IN ON THAT, BUT HE HAS TO LET BARRY GO WITH US.
I LIKE THAT!
I LIKE TAAKO'S IDEA AND ALL, BUT I THINK WE NEED TO WORK FROM A POSITION OF STRENGTH.
WHY DON'T WE DO SOMETHING THAT MAKES HIM BELIEVE WE'RE REAL HARD CASES?

I COULD USE THAT SPELL I USED BEFORE TO ILLUMINATE THE AX. YOU KNOW... SPECIAL EFFECTS.
A LIGHT SPELL?
YOU THINK THIS DUDE'S NEVER SEEN LIGHT BEFORE?
I MEAN, IF SOMETHING ALL OF A SUDDEN STARTS TO GLOW—
THAT'S WHAT THEY TEACH KIDS.
THEY TEACH LIGHT IN KINDERGARTEN.
NO, I THINK THIS IS A GOOD IDEA!
AND AT THE SAME TIME I'LL PRESTIDIGITATE ONE OF THOSE CANTRIP THINGS AND MAKE A SHOWER OF SPARKS.
AND I'LL BUILD A CHAIR WITH MY CARPENTRY TOOLS!
ORRRRR, YOU COULD DRAW A BEAD ON THIS G'NASH DUDE WITH YOUR BOW.
UNLESS... UNLESS HE DOESN'T FEEL THREATENED BY US, BECAUSE WE'RE ONLY LEVEL ONE.
THAT'S WHY WE'RE FIRING OFF THE FIREWORKS AND THE LIGHT!
LET'S GET TRUCKIN'!
I LOVE IT WHEN WE PLAN SHIT.


HELLO, FRIEND!
DON'T CALL HIM "FRIEND"!
NO-NO-NO-NO-NO! SOMEWHERE IN THE MIDDLE!
HEY, STUPID!
HEY, JERK!

NUMBER 16!
SIC THE SHORT ONE!


GRRRRAR
THERE'S NO NEED FOR HEIGHTIST SLURS, SIR!
?!
!
NUMBER 16?
SOUNDS LIKE A LOT OF WOLVES.
CHOMP!
OH, SHIT!
YOU KNOW, I HAVE A PROFICIENCY IN ANIMAL HANDLING...
CRUNCH
SNRL
I MIGHT SEE IF I COULD BEFRIEND HIM?
RRIP
TEAR
OKAY, ARE YOU SERIOUSLY GOING TO TRY TO BEFRIEND EVERYTHING THAT TRIES TO KILL YOU?
LISTEN, I LOVE ANIMALS!
AND I REALLY, REALLY WANT A PET!
CRUNCH
SQUELCH
COULD I MAKE A LITTLE SUGGESTION? SINCE WE'VE ALREADY ESTABLISHED OURSELVES AS SOMETHING OF A THREAT, PERHAPS, MAYBE YOU COULD JUST–
KILL IT, MAGNUS!
I SUPPOSE I COULD.
BUT I WANNA DO SOMETHING BADASS, IF I'M GONNA DO IT.
DID I MENTION THERE'S A FIRE PIT...RIGHT... OVER...THERE?
CRONCH
SNAP!

I DO THAT!
MMRR?
THAT'S IT?
THAT'S YOUR BIG CATCHPHRASE? "I DO THAT"?
YOU!!!
I'M FINE. DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME.
WHUUMP!
YOU THREW MY WOLF IN THE FIRE!
NO, SIRREE.
NO NEED TO WORRY ABOUT OLE MERLE.
JUST GOTTA CATCH MY BREATH...AND MAYBE DO A LITTLE CLOTTING...
HE CERTAINLY IS MUSCLE-Y.
DO YOU THINK HE'S MORE MUSCLE-Y THAN ME?
NAH, HE'S GOT YOU BEAT ON PURE MASS, BUT YOU'VE GOT WAY MORE IMPRESSIVE DEFINITION.
REALLY? YOU'RE NOT JUST SAYING THAT?
COULD SOMEBODY HELP ME PICK UP MY BLOOD?
Gnash
Race Bugbear
Class Gang Leader
+ PROFICIENCIES +
→ Abductions
→ Wolf training
→ Tea brewing
ASK HIM NICELY TO CALL OFF THE WOLVES?
CALL THEM OFF, YOU BASTARD!
TRY SAYING "PLEASE."

THAT
WAS MY FAVORITE WOLF!!
YOU JUST THREW HIM RIGHT INTO THE FIRE!
I'LL DO WORSE IF YOU DON'T CALL HIM OFF!
FELLAS, FELLAS, FELLAS!
WE CAME HERE TO TALK!
YOU SHOULD HAVE THOUGHT ABOUT THAT!
BEFORE YOU THREW MY DOG IN A FIRE!
BLINK BLINK
GRRAAAHHRR!!
HANG ON, BOSS!
I'VE GOTTA SAY: I KIND OF WISH WE HAD LET YOU TRY THAT ANIMAL HANDLING BIT INSTEAD OF ATTACKING IT.
I JUST WISH YOU HAD CLOSED THE DEAL AND KILLED IT.
I WANTED A PET!
BUT NOW WHAT DO YOU HAVE? A FLAMING WOLF ABOUT TO KILL US.
TO BE HONEST, IT'S MORE LIKE A SMOLDERING WOLF, ISN'T IT?
OHHHH! OKAY!
SNAP!
THAT'S THE BURNT SMELL!
SLAM!

DODGE!
ZWIP!
AARGH!
KA-CHUNK!
SHUNK!
OF COURSE.
NO TROUBLE HITTING THE DWARF.
SMALLEST TARGET IN THE PLACE.
owie
owie
HEY, DWARF! COULD I MAYBE GET A HEAL?!
...get in line...
SNAP!
SSSNAARL!!
EXCUSE ME! WHAT WAS IT AGAIN?
OH YES...
...G'NASH?

CHILL the Fuck Out!!
UHH
EXCUSE ME, G'NASH?
OL' BUDDY
HMM? WHAT?
I, UH, ROLLED A 17,
IS THAT ENOUGH TO CHARM—
PING!
WHY, IT'S MY DEAR FRIEND WHATEVER-YOUR-NAME-IS!
OH, THANK CHRIST.
G'nash
Race Bugbear
Class Sweetheart
PROFICIENCIES
Finger sandwiches
Footrubs
Shoulder to cry on
COULD YOU BE A DOLL AND CALL OFF YOUR EXTRA-CRISPY PUPPY AND YOUR GERBLIN HOOLIGANS?
OH, OF COURSE, DEAR BOY!
SIXTEENY! COME HERE TO DADDY!
RRR?
G'NASH, MY NAME IS TAAKO.
IT'S A PLEASURE. IT'S REALLY, REALLY SUPER-GREAT TO MEET YOU.
I FEEL LIKE WE'VE KNOWN EACH OTHER FOR AGES.
SKKITCH SKRITCH
I FEEL THAT WAY, TOO!

DO YOU GUYS NEED ANY MONEY? CAN I JUST SORT OF GIVE YOU EVERYTHING I HAVE?
OH, NO, NOOOOO.
MAYBE SOME OOLONG?
NO TIME FOR THAT. THE CHARM PERSON SPELL I ZAPPED YOU WITH ONLY LASTS AN HOUR.
WE HAVE A BIT OF A SITCH WE WANTED TO LOOP YOU IN ON.
ONE OF YOUR EMPLOYEES, I THINK HIS NAME IS YANNI...?
I DON'T THINK I EMPLOY ANY INTERNATIONALLY ADORED KEYBOARDISTS WITH AWESOME HAIR.
I THINK IT'S WEE-MAN.
I THINK IT'S MEEMAW.
OH! DO YOU MEAN–
JEEZ, THAT LOOKS LIKE ABOUT 19 DAMAGE.
MUST HURT LIKE A SUMBITCH
YAHVVIE?
YES! THAT'S IT! YAHVVIE!
GOOD OLE YAHVVIE. HE WAS "HENCHMAN OF THE MONTH" IN FEBRUARY.
YOU FELLAS SURE YOU DON'T WANT SOME TEA? I HAVE A WONDERFUL EARL GREY–
FIFTY-EIGHT MINUTES, G'NASH. TRY TO STAY FOCUSED.
SNAP! SNAP!

SO, YAHVVIE, HUH? HE'S PRETTY SPECIAL, ISN'T HE?
YOUR BUDDY YEEHAW IS HOLDING BARRY BLUEJEANS CAPTIVE.
OH, YES! BARRY! WONDERFUL FELLOW! VERY CORDIAL!
UNTIL YOU BEAT HIM WITHIN AN INCH OF HIS LIFE...?
OOOH, YES. SORRY ABOUT THAT.
WATER UNDER THE BRIDGE, MY GOOD MAN.
THIS YABBO OF YOURS–
YAHVVIE.
RIGHT. YERTLE SAID HE WOULD RELEASE BARRY TO US IF WE...
...THIS IS GONNA BE TOUGH TO HEAR...
HE SAID–
MUNCH
'E SAID 'EE 'OTTA 'ILL 'OO.
'EEDS OREGA'O.

GOOD HEAVENS! YOU'RE NOT GOING TO KILL ME, ARE YOU, TAAKO?
HELL, NO! WE'RE BEST BUDS!
ARE YOU SURE IT'S YAHVVIE? THERE'S A YORICK THAT WORKS FOR ME, AND HE'S ALWAYS BEEN A PAIN.
HEY! HEYYYYY! LOOK AT ME. LOOK AT THIS FACE!
IT'S TAAKO. THIS IS TAAKO TALKING. WOULD I LIE TO YOU?
ALL WE WANT YOU TO DO IS HELP US KILL YAHVVIE.
AND GET BARRY BLUEJEANS BACK FOR US.
AND TELL US WHAT HAPPENED TO OUR OTHER FRIEND, BOGARD.
AND MAYBE GIVE US A LITTLE GOLD.
MAYBE A MODERATE AMOUNT OF GOLD.
OR A LOT.
IT'S REALLY WHATEVER YOU FEEL COMFORTABLE WITH.
WHAT DO YOU SAY, FRIEND G'NASH?

I SAY WE WILL CLEAR UP THIS MATTER SPIT-SPOT.
HELLO? HELLO? TESTING, TESTING?
YAHVVIE, MAY I SEE YOU IN MY OFFICE, PLEASE?
I THINK ONCE YAHVVIE HAS A CHANCE TO AIR HIS GRIEVANCES, WE CAN RESOLVE THE WHOLE UNPLEASANT INCIDENT.
THIS IS SOME REALLY GOOD WORK! NICE FERRULES.
AS SOON AS HE SEES US, HE'S GONNA KNOW SOMETHING'S UP.
I'M TELLING YOU FELLOWS– THERE'S NO NEED FOR ALL THIS WORRY!
HE TALKS A BIG GAME, BUT YAHVVIE REALLY IS AS SWEET AS CHERRY PIE.
WE COULD PRETEND WE'RE CAPTIVES! OR PRETEND WE'RE DEAD!
I LIKE IT!
YAHVVIE!

THESE FELLOWS JUST TOLD ME A *FASCINATING* STORY ABOUT YOU!
THEY CLAIM–
THWANG
CHA-WUNK!
OH.
I'LL BE DAMNED. IT'S *TRUE.*
PROFICIENCY IN PROTECTION. NO BIG DEAL.
THIS WILL HAVE TO GO INTO YOUR PERSONNEL FILE!

REEEEEAL GLAD WE CHARMED THAT DUDE.
"WE"?
SCRUNCH
SPLAT
YOU LOOK TERRIBLE, BIG GUY. I SHOULD HEAL YOU UP.
SQUEEZE!POP!
I'M FINE. DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME.
YOU LOOK LIKE SHIT! I'M HEALING YOU!
LEAVE THE GUY ALONE. HE'S A PRIDEFUL MAN.
SNRRL!! RIPP!!
SPLAT!
WOW. NICE ARC.

I WAS JUST TRYING TO DO MY JOB!
TO BE HONEST, YOU'RE NOT VERY GOOD AT IT.
EVERYBODY
OH, SO YOU WANNA BE THE HEALER NOW, CAPTAIN CONJURE?!
CALM
DOWN!!
THANK YOU, MERLE. I FEEL FINE.
YOU ARE NOT FINE.
I JUST TOLD YOU:
I...FEEL...

FINE!
SLASH!
POINT MADE.
YOU FEEL FINE.
YOU HAVE CLEAVED THE FINAL GERBLIN.
CLEFT...?
OKAY, CLEFT.
CLEAVERED?
I THINK IT'S CLEFTED.
HE'S FUCKING DEAD, ALL RIGHT? I'LL BUY A THESAURUS BEFORE THE NEXT CAMPAIGN!!

Chapter 3

BOY!
I WISH I HADN'T NEEDED TO MURDER THEM.
YES, YES, VERY SAD.
I GUESS I SHOULD HAVE SUSPECTED SOMETHING.
PAT PAT
HE WAS A BIT CROSS AFTER HIS LAST JOB REVIEW.
DON'T BLAME YOURSELF.
LISTEN, G'NASH, I'M GOING TO HAVE TO SEARCH THEM...FOR VALUABLES.
YOU KNOW... PROCEDURE.
WELL, I... SUPPOSE SO?
AND ANY VALUABLES YOU DON'T MIND PARTING WITH?
WHY DO I FIND THAT GUY SO DAMNED CHARMING?
THIRTY GOLD PIECES FOR THE TAAKO BENEVOLENT FUND.
YEAH, WELL, IF YOU ARE GOING TO DO ANY MORE PILFERING, MAKE IT QUICK.
I THINK YOUR CHARM SPELL IS WEARING OFF.
LET'S GET BACK TO BARRY BLUEJEANS.
BEFORE TEATIME? NEVER!
BUT YOU JUST SAID THERE WASN'T TIME FOR–
THAT WAS BEFORE I GOT VERY VERY THIRSTY...
...FOR TEA.
DID SOMEONE SAY TEATIME?!
AND VALUABLES, YES.

THAT'S ABOUT TWENTY-FOUR IN GOLD, A COUPLE OF TOP-SHELF HEALING POTIONS, AND AN ONYX OCELOT.
I'M A BIT OF A COLLECTOR. THAT STATUETTE IS WORTH A LOT TO ME.
AND IT'S WORTH ABOUT FORTY GOLD TO ME!
...I MEAN, US.
SCONES? DO YOU HAVE SCONES?
WHO'S A GOOD
OH MY GOD! I DON'T!
IT'S OKAY. YOU JUST LOOKED LIKE A SCONES GUY.
I CAN RUN OUT AND GET YOU SOME!
NO WORRIES.
I'M CUTTING BACK ON THE GLUTENS ANYWAY.
WHAPPITY FLASH!!
THAT OOLONG IS SO AROMATIC AND SO DELICIOUS THAT JUST DRINKING IT TIPS THE SCALES, AND YOU ARE BOOSTED UP TO LEVEL TWO!
PFFT!
THAT MUST BE SOME DAMNED GOOD TEA!
I FEEL STRONGER, FASTER, AND MORE DURABLE.
AND MORE CHARISMATIC AND ACROBATIC?
HELL, YEAH!
ME, TOO!

G'NASH, SINCE WE'RE FRIENDS HERE—
BEST FRIENDS, I WOULD SAY!
OH, NO DOUBT. WHAT HAPPENED—

LOVERS, MAYBE?
TIME WILL TELL.

WHAT HAPPENED TO OUR OTHER FRIEND, BOGARD?
LET'S SEE...

OH, YES!
G'NASH • ABDUCTIOUS
LLC.

WE WERE RETAINED TO DELIVER HIM TO...

THE BLACK SPIDER.
KRASH

REALLY?
I AM NOT FOND OF SPIDERS!!
WAIT A MO! BLACK SPIDER?
CLARENCE AND ENID SPIDER'S LITTLE BOY?
I DON'T–
KIDDING.
I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT HIM. NEVER MET HIM.
SEE? WE WERE INSTRUCTED TO TURN MR. BOGARD OVER TO HIS REPRESENTATIVE. AND THAT'S WHAT WE DID.
COME ON, YA BIG BABY. I'LL PROTECT YOU FROM BUGS.
SPIDERS ARE NOT BUGS!
THEY'RE LITTLE HAIRY TURDS WITH LEGS.
G'NASH, OLD PAL, THIS HAS BEEN A SUPER GREAT TIME.
YES, IT HAS!
...EXCEPT FOR THE WHOLE PART WHERE I HAD TO SLAUGHTER ALL MY EMPLOYEES.
THEY WERE GOING TO MURDER YOU!
AND HEY– FEWER END-OF-YEAR BONUSES TO PAY OUT!
GOOD POINT!

CAN WE HAVE A HUG?
YOU KNOW, I JUST WATCHED YOU SQUISH A GERBLIN TO GUACAMOLE...AND THERE'S STILL SOME CHUNKS OF HIM... ON...YOU.
SO...
...PASS.
WILL ONE OF YOU GIVE ME JUST A QUICK HUG?
SOUNDS LIKE A JOB FOR...
MAGNUS!
HE LOVES HUGS! AND ANIMALS!
EXCEPT FOR THOSE OOKIE OLD SPIDERS!
SURE! FINE!
LET'S TURN THIS BUGBEAR...
...INTO A HUG-BEAR.
WHOOF!
HOLY SHIT...

HE'S SO SOFT!
THIS FEELS REALLY NICE!
KER-
ACK
TOO TIGHT!! TOO TIGHT!! TOO TIGHT!!
OKAY, BIG FELLA.
EASE OFF THE GAS A LITTLE. WE REALLY HAVE TO GO.
STOP BY ON THE WAY BACK! I'LL MAKE CUCUMBER SANDWICHES!
MAN, TAAKO!
WHEN YOU CHARM SOMEBODY, YOU JUST CHARM THE HELL OUT OF THEM!
YESSIR!

HOLY SHIT...

HE IS IN *HORRIBLE* SHAPE!

OF COURSE, NOT EVERYBODY HAS THE STRENGTH OF COMMITMENT TO CARVE OUT AND KEEP A REALLY GREAT BOD.

...HEAL ME...
I THINK HE SAID "OIL CAN."
I'LL HEAL HIM.
YOU CAN'T! I'LL TAKE CARE OF IT WITH ONE OF OUR HEALING POTIONS.

WHY CAN'T I?
YOU ALREADY USED UP YOUR SPELL SLOTS!

WHAT THE HELL ARE SPELL SLOTS?!
OH, DEAR GOD...

THANK YOU, THANK YOU, GENTLE SOUL. I WILL NEVER FORGET THE KINDNESS YOU HAVE DONE FOR ME.
MY NAME IS BARRY J. BLUEJEANS, AND I AM READY TO KICK SOME GOBLIN ASS!

ALL THE ASSES THAT NEEDED TO BE KICKED HAVE BEEN KICKED, BAROLD.
YOU DIDN'T LEAVE ME ONE ASS?
THERE MAY BE A CHUNK OR TWO OF ASS OUTSIDE IN THE WEEDS YOU COULD KICK IF THAT WOULD MAKE YOU HAPPY.

OHHHH! NOW THE STUPID NAME MAKES MORE SENSE!
YEAH, WELL, NO SHIT.
YOU THINK IT'S A FAMILY NAME?

OH, GREAT. HE'S A DOUCHE.
BARRY'S A DOUCHE.

TAKES ONE TO KNOW ONE.
MAY I SUGGEST WE GET THE HELL OUT OF HERE BEFORE THE SPELL WEARS OFF AND G'NASH BECOMES A LOT LESS CORDIAL?

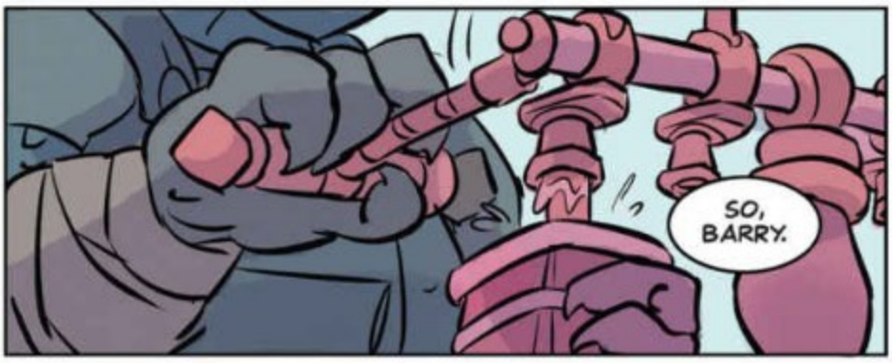
OOD BOY.
PING
WHAT THE -
DAMMIT!

WHAT THE HELL HAPPENED, BARRY?
A LOT OF SHIT.
AND IT WAS ALL REALLY TERRIBLE.
BOGARD TELLS ME THAT HIS TWO MORON BROTHERS--
HEY! THOSE ARE MY TWO MORON COUSINS YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT!
SORRY.
HE AND YOUR TWO MORON COUSINS FOUND A MAP LEADING TO...
THE LOST MINE of Haverdale.
WHY DIDN'T HE JUST TELL US THAT RIGHT UP FRONT?
WHY THE HELL WOULD HE TRUST YOU?
AGAIN: COUSINS?!
DWARVES HAVE, LIKE, EIGHT HUNDRED COUSINS!
YOU'RE BASICALLY PERFECT STRANGERS!
AND DATING'S A PAIN.

SO, BLACK SPIDER WANTS BOGARD SO HE CAN GET THE MINE, PLOT-POINT, PLOT-POINT, PLOT-POINT...
WE ESCORT BARRY HERE AND THE WAGON OF GOODIES TO THIS HAVERDALE JOINT AND WHAM-BANG, IT'S PAYDAY FOR TAAKO AND THE TAAKETTES.
WELL, TECHNICALLYYYY–
–WE AGREED TO DELIVER THE STUFF TO BOGARD.
SO TO FULFILL OUR AGREEMENT, WE'LL HAVE TO SAVE HIS ASS, TOO.
IN SCHOOL, WERE YOU THE KID THAT ALWAYS REMINDED THE TEACHER THAT THEY HAD FORGOTTEN TO HAND OUT HOMEWORK?
AND YOUR POINT IS...?
UGH, FINE.
WE'LL GO TO HAVERDALE AND DO ALL THE SHIT YOU JUST SAID!

WELCOME...
PAN-TASTIC!
TO HAVERDALE!
FIRST STAGE
SALE!
PICTURESQUE, SERENE HAVERDALE.
IF YOU CAN MAKE IT THERE...YOU'LL MAKE IT ANYWHERE.

DING A-LING


SO, BARRY.

THIS... BLACK SPIDER.

IS HE... YOU KNOW...
A REAL SPIDER? OR IS THAT...A NICK-NAME?

YOU KNOW, PUNKIN, SPIDERS ARE TEENSY-WEENSY THINGS.
NOT SURE HOW ONE WOULD BE ABLE TO KIDNAP A DWARF AND EXTORT AND SHIT.

I HAVE AN ISSUE WITH SPIDERS!
DRAFTS
AND THINKING, APPARENTLY.

WHOEVER OR WHATEVER THE BLACK SPIDER IS, I AM ASSUMING THEY TOOK BOGARD TO FIND THE MINE LOCATION.
AFTER A GROUP OF ORC MARAUDERS TORE THROUGH IT, THE MINE WAS SHUT DOWN AND FORGOTTEN.
A LOT OF PEOPLE WOULD DO SOME PRETTY BAD SHIT TO FIND THAT MINE.

BUUUT—
—YOU DON'T KNOW WHERE THE MINE IS! SO WE CAN'T RESCUE HIM.

AWW, SHUCKS!
WELL, I GUESS WE SHOULD BE MOSEYIN' ON!

HANG ON.
URK!

WHY ALL THE FUSS ABOUT A PLAYED-OUT MINE?

IT'S NOT THE MINE...
IT'S THE VAULT *IN* THE MINE.

MINES? VAULTS?? WHY ARE WE LISTENING TO THIS HORSESHIT?
BOGARD SAYS THERE IS A VAULT DOWN THERE WITH TREASURES BEYOND BELIEF.
...POWERFUL WEAPONS...
...MYSTICAL ARTIFACTS...
...AND WEALTH BEYOND IMAGINING.

ZOOM!
COME ON, FELLAS! THE MAN IS TRYING TO *TALK!* SHOW A LITTLE COURTESY.

HUP
DO GO ON, DEAR, DEAR MR. BLUEJEANS.

WE CAN FIND THE MINE...

WITH THIS MAP!
TADAAA!

IT'S BLA-ANK.
NO SHI-IT.
HE'S A NU-UT.
NO HE'S NO-OT.
IT'S ENCHANTED!
I GUESS YOU COULD SAY THE REAL MAP–
...WAS INSIDE THAT DAMNED DWARF!
LIKE, UP HIS BUTT?
EW, NO.
BOGARD'S BLOOD ACTIVATES THE MAP!
NOW THAT'S COOL...IF I SAY SO MYSELF.
AND FORTUNATELY, I ALSO HAVE–
A VIAL OF BOGARD'S BLOOD!!
drip

WELL, YOU GOT THE "VIAL" PART RIGHT.
DAMN!!
DAMN, INDEED! I WAS HOPING TO SCORE SOME COOL WEAPON SHIT.
WELL!
THIS HAS BEEN A BLAST, FELLAS, BUT–
EXCUSE ME–

–WOULD A COUSIN'S BLOOD WORK?

WHAT A GOOD IDEA!

QUIT SQUIRMING!
I WOULD BE MORE COMFORTABLE IF YOU WOULD LET ME DECIDE WHERE MY BLOOD IS GOING TO BE COMING FROM!

WE JUST NEED TO MAKE SURE YOU GET A LOT OF BLOOD.
WHEN YOU SAY "A LOT"...

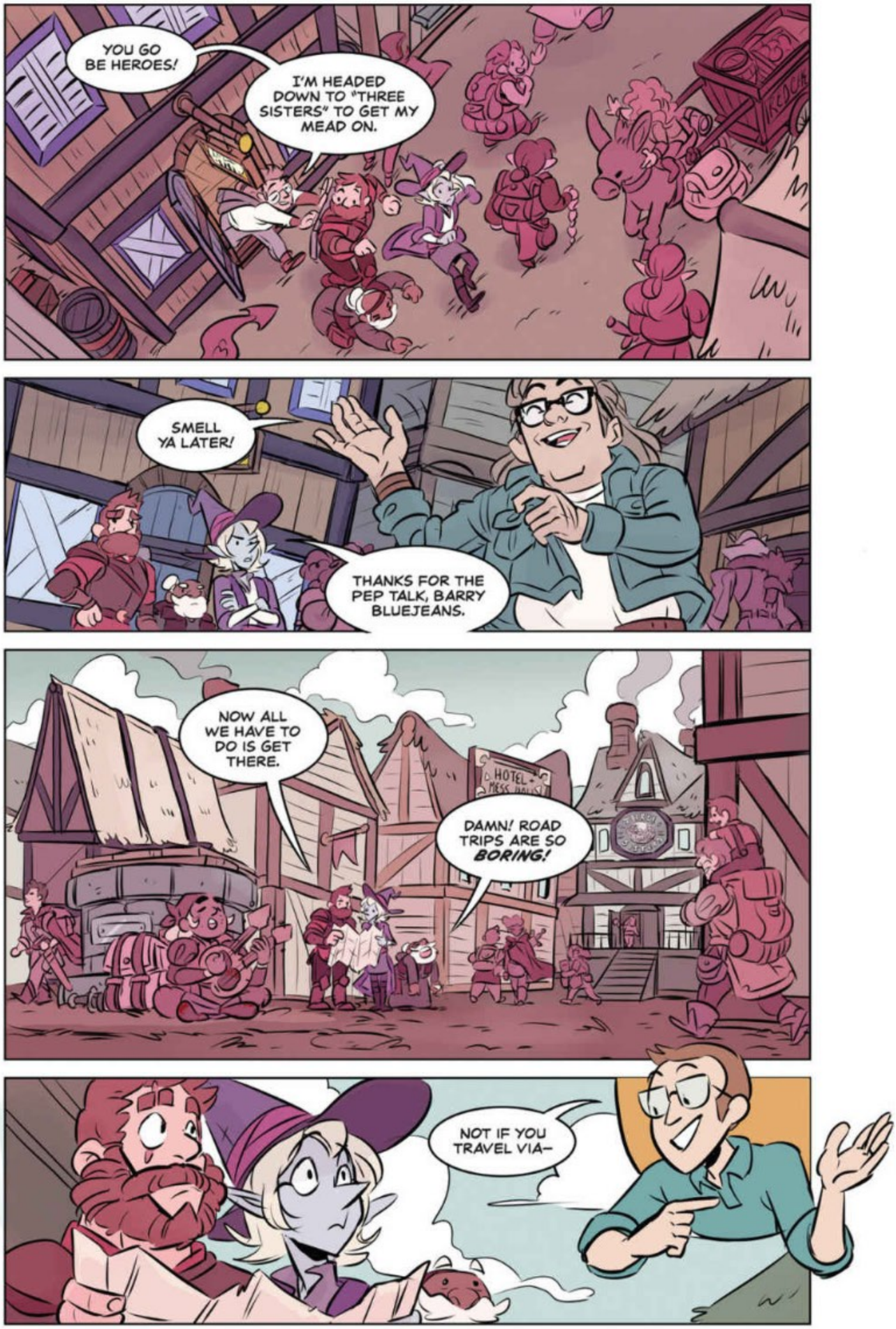
I THOUGHT YOU WERE SOME BIG, BRAVE HERO!
DOES WIDDLE MERLE-Y NEED SOMEBODY TO HOLD HIS HAND?

EAT ME, BARRY BLUEJEANS!
WHOA!
WHUNK

YOU SEE, MISTER BLUEJEANS, AS A CLERIC, I KNOW EVERY INCH OF MY ANATOMY.
THE BODY IS A VERY FAMILIAR ROADMAP TO ME.
I THINK YOU GOT A VEIN.

THAT IS QUITE A GUSHER.
WELL... YAY.

I'LL BE DAMNED! I DIDN'T THINK IT WOULD WORK!
SLURM SLURM SLURM
SLITHER
YOU DIDN'T THINK IT WOULD WORK?!
IT WAS A THEORY.
HERE!
THAT'S WHERE THEY MUST HAVE TAKEN BOGARD!
"CAVERN OF DANGLING DEATH"?
DOES NOBODY UNDERSTAND THE TOURISM INDUSTRY ANYMORE?
IT'S ABOUT A DAY'S RIDE FROM HERE. YOU CAN TAKE MY WAGON.
YOU'RE NOT GOING? WON'T IT BE BAD FOR YOUR BODYGUARD CAREER IF YOU DON'T SAVE YOUR CLIENT?
IT WILL BE EQUALLY BAD FOR MY CAREER IF I JUST FUCKING DIE.


YOU GO BE HEROES!
I'M HEADED DOWN TO "THREE SISTERS" TO GET MY MEAD ON.
SMELL YA LATER!
THANKS FOR THE PEP TALK, BARRY BLUEJEANS.
NOW ALL WE HAVE TO DO IS GET THERE.
HOTEL
DAMN! ROAD TRIPS ARE SO BORING!
NOT IF YOU TRAVEL VIA–

Chapter 4

Travel Montage!!

Chapter 5

ONE TRAVEL MONTAGE LATER...
OHHH, THIS LOOKS NICE.
GOOD NEIGHBORHOOD. CLOSE TO SHOPPING...
HUP!
HOPE THIS IS A DECENT SCHOOL DISTRICT.

TRY TO STAY POSITIVE. YOUR COUSINS COULD BE PERFECTLY FINE.
YEAH.
RIGHT.

...THANKS.

AW, DAMMIT.

CAGGLE. YOU DUMBASS.
ARE YOU... ALL RIGHT?
OH, YEAH.
CAGGLE WAS A JERK. I KINDA HATED HIS GUTS.
STILL, HE WAS YOUR COUSIN.
YOU GATHER YOUR THOUGHTS. I'LL GO CHECK HIM.
FOR...
...CLUES.
DUDE! THAT IS NOT COOL!
WHAT? HE SAID HE HATED THE JERK!
STILL! YOU SHOULDN'T LOOT THE GUY!!
SNIFF
NOT EVEN FOR THESE MAGIC SHOES?
LOAFERS & LEAPING & SPRINTING
→ Run fast → Jump high
→ Stop on a dime
OOooOOooO! DIBS!
PLEEEEASE?
SURE! NOT GONNA CATCH ME WEARING A DEAD GUY'S SHOES.

LOOKS LIKE THERE'S A PASSAGE DOWN THERE.

ARE THOSE NEW SHOES?
UHH... YEAH.
HAD TO CHANGE. MY DOGS WERE BARKING.

IT'S FUNNY.
THEY LOOK *JUST LIKE* THE MAGIC LOAFERS I GOT CAGGLE LAST CANDLENIGHTS.

WOW. SMALL WORLD.
WHAT ARE THE ODDS?

THIS IS RIDICULOUS!

WE'VE BEEN WANDERING AROUND IN HERE FOR *TWO HOURS!*

WE SHOULD HAVE MADE A MAP. A GOOD OLD-FASHIONED ADVENTURING MAP! IT'S PRETTY STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE.
OH, GOD. WILL YOU NEED MORE BLOOD?

BLLAP!

BLLAP-BLRRT-BLIP-BLYRT
WHAT THE HELL IS THAT?
LET ME TAKE ANOTHER SHOT AT MY FOLEY WORK:

PLRRT-SQLRT
IT'S EITHER A DUCK OR SOMEBODY FARTING.
PLRRT-SQLRT
MAYBE A FARTING DUCK?

I THINK IT'S GETTING CLOSER.
I DON'T KNOW— I PROBABLY NEED TO HEAR IT AGAIN TO BE SURE...
AWW, COME ON, GUYS!

"SPLORCH-SPLORCH-SPLORCH!"
THIS HAS TAKEN A REALLY GROSS TURN.
THERE'S ANOTHER CHAMBER RIGHT HERE. HOPEFULLY IT WILL BE LESS...SPLORCHY.

WHOEVER DESIGNED THESE CAVES HAD NO SENSE OF FENG SHUI!

HEY, TAAKO?
SHOULD I JUMP IN THIS SPRING?
IT'S ABOUT TEN STORIES DOWN, SO...YOU'D ALMOST CERTAINLY DIE.
YOUR CALL...

SPLORCH. SPLORCH SPLORCH
SNEAK SNEAK
THERE'S NOTHING LIKE COOL, CLEAR WATER, FILTERED THROUGH GOOD STONE.
I CAN'T WAIT TO TASTE IT.

SKRTT!
OOPS!

SPLISH
WHUH
SPLOOSH
BLLAAAARRSHH!
...
HAPPY NOW?
EW. GROSS.
I KNOW! THIS IS MY FAVORITE SHIRT!
NO...
...EWW, GROSS!!

WOBBLE
SPLOORCH
ZWING!
FWASH!
SPLORCHOWGA!
AND WITH THAT, YOU HAVE SOLVED MY JELLY PUZZLE!
WAIT. WAS THE SOLUTION: "KILL IT"?
JINGLE
THWOMP!

...YOUR OTHER COUSIN?
YEP. THAT'S DORB.
ARE YOU SURE?
POINT!
OH, DORB! YOU REALLY LOVED YOUR BEDAZZLER.
YOU AIN'T KIDDIN'.
HE JUST WANTED EVERYTHING TO BE SHINY AND PRETTY.
NICE JOB, DORB!
I'M SORRY FOR YOUR LOSS.
LET'S GET ROLLING!
JINGLE

HEY...DO YOU HAVE, LIKE, A TON OF COINS IN YOUR POCKET?
JINGLE! JINGLE! JINGLE!
NO! THEY'RE ALL BOTTLE CAPS! I'M SAVING THEM FOR UNICEF!
WELL, WHOEVER UNICEF IS, I'M SURE THEY'LL APPRECIATE THEM.

JUST BECAUSE WE'RE RISKING LIFE AND LIMB DOESN'T MEAN I LOSE THE SPIRIT OF GENEROSITY.
YOU SURE YOU DIDN'T FIND ANYTHING OVER THERE...?

JUST AN OLD, RUSTY KEY.
AN OLD, RUSTY KEY, ALL BY ITSELF!

AN OLD, RUSTY KEY.
JUST LAYING THERE. WEIRD, HUH?

CAN'T HELP BUT NOTICE THE ELEVATOR HAS AN OLD, RUSTY LOCK ON IT.

LET'S GET THE FUCK ON IT!
JINGLE!

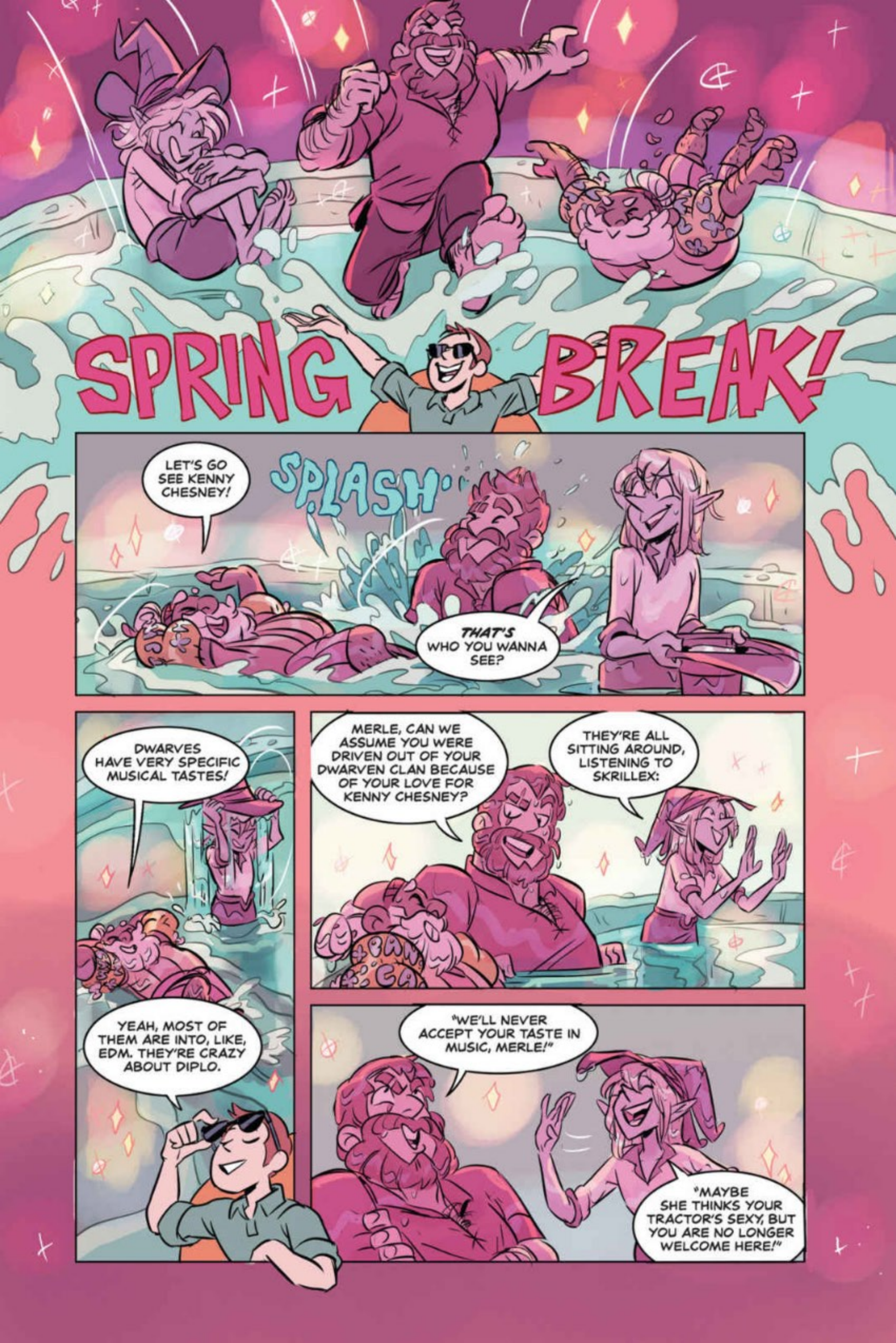
SO WHAT KIND OF BOTTLE CAPS ARE WE TALKING AB–
THE CAPS ARE MY THING. LET IT GO.

STAND FAST, YOU IMPETUOUS SLAB OF BEEF!
MY CLERIC-SENSES TELL ME THERE ARE MAGICAL PROPERTIES IN THAT WATER!

GREAT! LET ME AT IT!
CLERIC-SENSES?
WELL, I WASN'T GONNA TRY IT FIRST. SHIT MIGHT BE POISON.

SLUUURRRP!

BAM
I AM TOTALLY HEALED!
IT'S AMAZING! I FEEL ENERGIZED! SEETHING WITH VITALITY!
LIKE A CIALIS COMMERCIAL!
EXACTLY!
I WONDER IF I CAN CONJURE UP A COUPLE OF BATHTUBS?
WE SHOULD ALL GET IN ON THIS SPRING!
UH-OHHH!!
YOU KNOW WHAT THAT MEANS!


SPRING BREAK!
LET'S GO SEE KENNY CHESNEY!
SPLASH
THAT'S WHO YOU WANNA SEE?
DWARVES HAVE VERY SPECIFIC MUSICAL TASTES!
YEAH, MOST OF THEM ARE INTO, LIKE, EDM. THEY'RE CRAZY ABOUT DIPLO.
MERLE, CAN WE ASSUME YOU WERE DRIVEN OUT OF YOUR DWARVEN CLAN BECAUSE OF YOUR LOVE FOR KENNY CHESNEY?
THEY'RE ALL SITTING AROUND, LISTENING TO SKRILLEX:
"WE'LL NEVER ACCEPT YOUR TASTE IN MUSIC, MERLE!"
"MAYBE SHE THINKS YOUR TRACTOR'S SEXY, BUT YOU ARE NO LONGER WELCOME HERE!"

DANG IT!
WHEN YOU TAKE THE WATER OUT OF THE SPRING IT STOPS BEING ALL SHINY AND MAGICAL.
IT'S NOT THE WATER THAT'S MAGICAL, GENIUS. IT'S THE STONE THAT FORMS THE POOL.
FINE!
CHOMP!
YOU KNOW THAT DIDN'T WORK, RIGHT?
I DON'T NEED TO TELL YOU THAT DIDN'T WORK.

Chapter 6

NOW WHAT YOU SEE HERE IS THE HEART OF THE MINING OPERATION.
HERE THEY WERE EXCAVATING THE MAGICAL ORE THEY WERE TURNING INTO POWERFUL WEAPONS.

PICTURE, IF YOU WILL, A WHOLE SHITLOAD OF ORCS RUSHING THROUGH THESE VERY CHAMBERS, HEADS SPINNING WITH TALES OF INCREDIBLE WEALTH!
AND BLADDERS BURSTING WITH PEE BECAUSE THEY HAD BEEN DRINKING A LOT AND THERE AREN'T A LOT OF REST STOPS ON THE ROAD FROM HAVERDALE.

IT SEEMS TO ME THAT THIS IS THE HEART OF THE MINING OPERATION WHERE THEY WERE EXCAVATING THE MAGICAL ORE FOR WEAPONS. I JUST FEEL IT IN MY BONES.
WE ALL HEARD HIM TOO, DUDE.

SO-O-O... HOW DOES EVERYBODY THINK THE ADVENTURE IS GOING?
B? MAYBE A SOLID B-?
WELCOME, EVERYBODY...

TO "TUNNEL TALK"!

SO, ARE YOU GUYS MORE DOG PEOPLE OR–
OKAY.

NO MORE TALKING AND SHARING!
I'M SORRY I STARTED THIS WHOLE THING.

HAVE I EVER TOLD YOU THE KEY TO CARVING THE PERFECT WOODEN DUCK?
THE SECRET IS SMALL, CONTROLLED STROKES!
OH, GOD!
HOW MUCH LONGER ARE WE GOING TO BE IN THIS CAVE?

FOUR DAYS LATER...
FOUR DAYS. AND IT BROUGHT US CLOSER AS FRIENDS!
NO. IT DIDN'T.
FOUR DAYS THAT BROUGHT US TO THE BRINK OF BEING A POWERFUL FIGHTING UNIT!
NO. IT DIDN'T.
FOUR DAYS THAT BROUGHT US A BROADER UNDERSTANDING OF THE VERY WORLD AROUND US!
OH, IT MOST DEFINITELY DIDN'T.
ALL RIGHT, PARTY POOPERS. WHERE DID IT BRING US?
TO ANOTHER BIG GODDAMNED CAVE.

NOW THIS IS AN IMPRESSIVE-LOOKING ROOM!
IN A GREAT-SETTING-FOR-A-BIG-CONFRONTATION KINDA WAY.

I'M NOT 100% THIS THING CAN HOLD UP MY MUSCLE-Y MASSIVENESS.

IF IT CAN HOLD UP THIS BEAST—

—THEN I THINK WE'RE GOOD.
fWip!

KRAMSH

HEY!!
I DO THE KICKING DOORS OPEN AROUND HERE!

AHH, SHIT.

EASY, BOYS.
WE NEED TO EXHIBIT STRENGTH AND CONFIDENCE,
BUT WE DON'T WANT TO APPEAR TOO AGGRES–

WHAT'S SHAKIN'?
HAIL AND WELL MET!
–SIVE.

SHIT, SHIT, SHIT.
"HAIL AND WELL MET"? ARE YOU LITTLE JOHN NOW?
WELL, YOU SOUND LIKE FANTASY VINNIE BARBARINO!
JUST BE QUIET FOR A SECOND! GIVE ME A CHANCE TO THINK!

GREETINGS, FELLOW TRAVELER! I AM MAGNUS BURNSIDES, THE LEADER OF THIS STALWART GROUP, KNOWN AS "MAGNUS AND HIS MERRY MEN"–
ACTUALLY,
IT'S "TAAKO AND HIS TAAKETTES."
AS YOU MAY HAVE SURMISED, I AM THE TAAKO OF THAT TITLE–
MAY I SAY SOMETHING?
HAVE YOU HEARD THE WORD OF PAN TODAY?
MERLE'S WITNESSING.
YOU'RE SPREADING THE "GOOD NEWS OF PAN" NOW?!
WILL YOU THREE
JUST
SHUT
UP?!
I AM VERY BUSY RIGHT NOW. TRYING TO SAVE THE WORLD. I REALLY DON'T WANT TO TAKE THE TIME TO STOMP YOU INTO JELLY.
AT THE SAME TIME, I CAN'T HAVE YOU SCREWING UP MY MISSION, SO I'M TRYING TO FIGURE OUT WHAT TO DO WITH YOU.
LET'S PUT IT TO A VOTE:
ALL IN FAVOR OF THE NICE ORC LADY NOT EXTERMINATING US–

OKAY, SO.
YOU SEEM LIKE OKAY GUYS.
I'VE GOT A QUESTION FOR YOU.
WHAT HAPPENS NEXT DEPENDS ON HOW YOU ANSWER THIS QUESTION.
COOL! LIKE A "CHOOSE YOUR OWN ADVENTURE"!!
SURE–
–IF 90% OF THE PAGES READ "YOU DIED."
ARE YOU HERE
FOR
THE
SSHHHAKSRNKYYY!!

WE DIDN'T QUITE CATCH THAT...?
DO YOU HAVE SOMETHING STUCK IN YOUR THROAT? LIKE A HAIR OR–?

ARE. YOU. HERE.
FOR.
THE.

...I THINK I GOT THIS.

WHY, NO, MA'AM!
WE'RE NOT SHAXS-RUHN-KICKS HUNTERS!

OKAY, THAT'S JUST A MADE-UP WORD,
WHICH TELLS ME YOU'RE NOT HERE FOR THE
WHICH IS GREAT NEWS FOR ME.
THE GREAT NEWS FOR YOU IS I AM NOT GOING TO KILL YOU–
–WITH MY CROSSBOW.
CLICK
FWOOOSH
BUT I ALSO CAN'T HAVE YOU FOLLOWING ME, SOOOOO–
DING!!
CREEAAKK
ROOAAR!
SWHAMP!!
RACKETY-CLACKET!!

LOUISE! NON-LETHAL PARAMETERS!
...ANNND SHE LEFT.
BAD FORM, ORC LADY!!
ROOAAR!
SWAP!
GRAB!
ARE YOU OKAY?!
ME?? I SAVED YOU!!
I WAS YOUR MOTIVATION!
YOU BETTER GET MOTIVATED TO RUN, 'CAUSE IT'S COMING BACK!
SCREW THIS, I'M WINDED.
I'M GONNA GO WITH OPTION TWO.

WHOOOM
SLAM!
chugga... chugga... chugga...
THAT'S RIGHT, CRO-MAGNONS, I CAN MAKE WEATHER WITH MY HANDS.
THAT'S WHY YOU'RE THE TAAKETTES.
COOL! LET'S PUT THIS THING OUT OF OUR MISERY!
GIMME A BOOST, MERLE!
YOU GOT IT!

HEY!
THOSE LOAFERS...!
IT'S...A... COINCIDENCE!!
KA-CHUNK KA-CLANK
KA-CHANK!
KACHUNK KA-CHUNK-CHUNK -CHUNK-
CRUGGLE
CRAGGLE
KA-THUD! KA-THD!
GOTTA PROTECT THE MONEY-MAKER!
WAASSHH!
KA-BOOM!!

WHO WOULD HAVE EVER THOUGHT IT WASN'T CHAIN-PROOF?
MAGNUS DID.
I BET WE EARNED BIG EXPERIENCE FOR THIS!
I'M GIVING YOU, MAGNUS, AN INSPIRATION POINT, BECAUSE THAT WAS AN INSPIRED USE OF CHAINS.
I MOVED THE CHAINS!
YOU MOVED THE CHAINS!!
THAT ORC IS REALLY IRRESPONSIBLE WITH DOORS!
POP!
HELP!
BUT SHE CERTAINLY CAN PROJECT!

HE-E-E-L-P!
WHY SHOULD WE-E-E?
I COULD REALLY USE A HAND DOWN HERE!
WELL, SURE!
WHY SHOULDN'T WE HELP OUT THE NICE PERSON WHO LEFT US TO THE TENDER MERCIES OF A KILLER MULCHING MACHINE?

BE STALWART, WARRIOR WOMAN!

MAGNUS RUSHES IN. SO YOU ALL TAKE OFF RUNNING DOWN THE–
I DON'T.

WHAT?
NOT TO GO HELP SOMEONE WHO JUST SICCED A METAL MURDER MACHINE ON US!!
I'VE GOT THESE LITTLE STUBBY DWARF LEGS. I'M MORE OF A WADDLER, NOT A RUNNER.

PREPARE TO DO BATTLE WITH–
–MAGNUS AND HIS ROAD DOGS!!
OH SHIT.

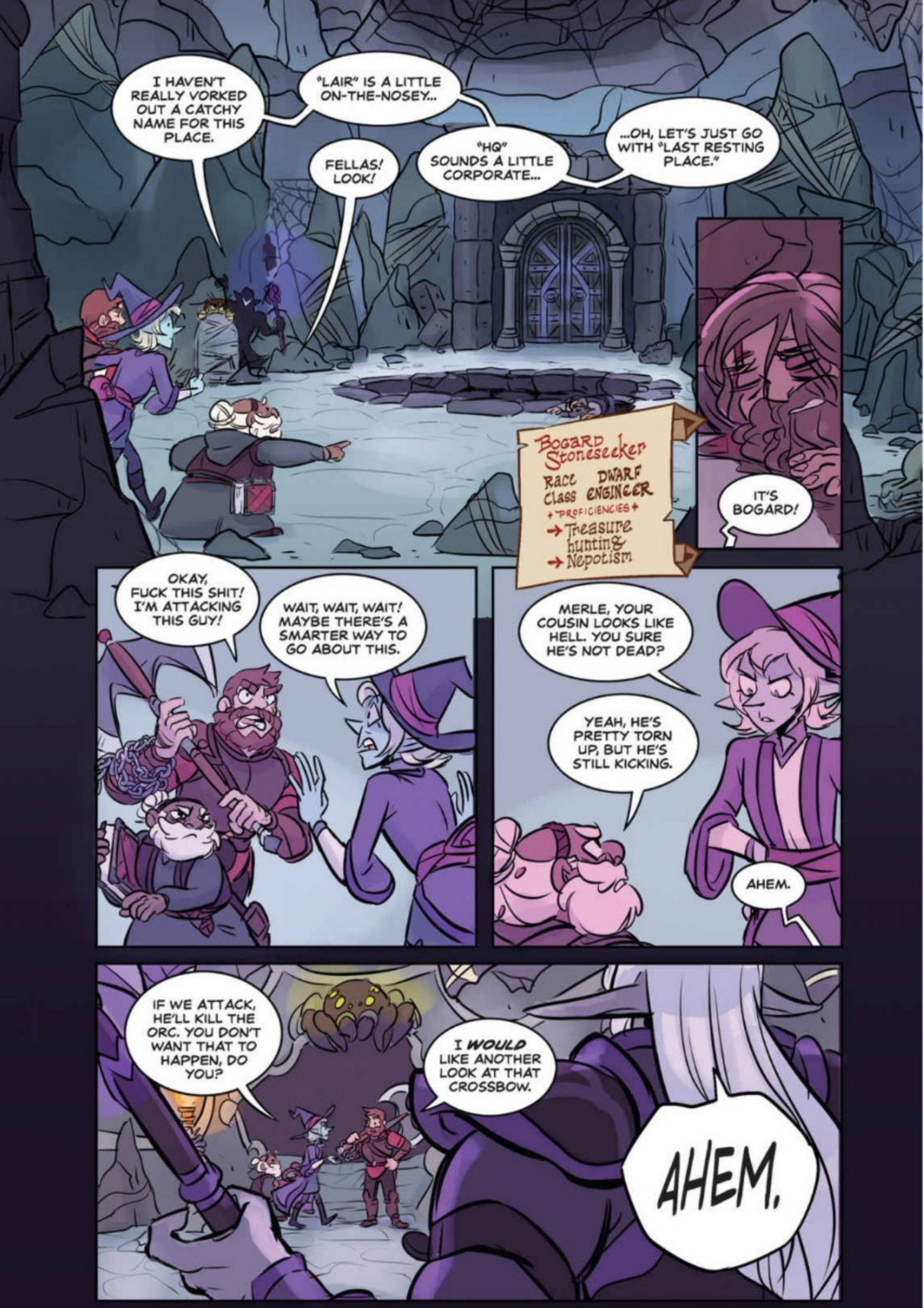
GUYS!! GET IN HERE!!
AW, HELL. ALL RIGHT!

NOT ME!

YOU KNOW, THEY'RE JUST GOING TO GET SLAUGHTERED WITHOUT YOU THERE TO SAVE THEIR ASSES.
GOOD POINT.
ALL RIGHT. BUT I'M NOT RUNNING.
I WILL... MOSEY.

OH, VAT A FANTASTIC DEVELOPMENT!
VE HAFF GUESTS, MY DEAR! HOW EXCITING!

ALL RIGHT! THAT SOUNDS GOOD AND WEIRD!
I'M COMIN'!!


I HAVEN'T REALLY VORKED OUT A CATCHY NAME FOR THIS PLACE.
"LAIR" IS A LITTLE ON-THE-NOSEY...
FELLAS! LOOK!
"HQ" SOUNDS A LITTLE CORPORATE...
...OH, LET'S JUST GO WITH "LAST RESTING PLACE."
Bogard Stoneseeker
Race DWARF
Class ENGINEER
+ PROFICIENCIES +
→ Treasure hunting
→ Nepotism
IT'S BOGARD!
OKAY, FUCK THIS SHIT! I'M ATTACKING THIS GUY!
WAIT, WAIT, WAIT! MAYBE THERE'S A SMARTER WAY TO GO ABOUT THIS.
MERLE, YOUR COUSIN LOOKS LIKE HELL. YOU SURE HE'S NOT DEAD?
YEAH, HE'S PRETTY TORN UP, BUT HE'S STILL KICKING.
AHEM.
IF WE ATTACK, HE'LL KILL THE ORC. YOU DON'T WANT THAT TO HAPPEN, DO YOU?
I WOULD LIKE ANOTHER LOOK AT THAT CROSSBOW.
AHEM.

LOOM
...
A THIRD VISITOR!
VONDERFUL!!
DARLING, VE NEED TO PREPARE THREE MORE PLACES AT ZE TABLE!
MY GOOD MAN, I CAN'T TELL YOU HOW HAPPY I AM TO MEET SOMEONE ELSE WITH PROPER DICTION.
YES, YOU HAVE THE SOUND OF A UNIVERSITY MAN YOURSELF! VHERE DID YOU STUDY MAGIC?
NEW ELFINGTON.
I'M NOT ZAT FAMILIAR..?
IT WAS BUILT ON THE RUINS OF OLD ELFINGTON...
WHICH WE BURNT DOWN BECAUSE WE COULDN'T FIGURE OUT WHY IT WAS CALLED OLD ELFINGTON.
QUID PRO QUO TIME, MY HANDSOME GENT. WHO MIGHT YOU BE?

DO I NEED TO BE INTRODUCED? MY REPUTATION PRECEDES ME.
AND HERE IS MY SPIFFY SPIDER TABARD.
POINT
POINT
POINT
OHHHH!
YOU'RE THE BLACK SPIDER!
Black Spider
Race DROW
Class WIZARD
+ PROFICIENCIES +
→ Black magic
→ Arachnid control
→ Bad accent
I HATE TO BE THAT GUY, BUT TECHNICALLY THAT'S A WHITE SPIDER.

SO, BLACK SPIDER–
ZAT'S ACTUALLY JUST AN ALIAS, NOT MY REAL NAME.
LISTEN, MERLE, I KNOW HOW THIS WORKS!
IF WE FIGURE OUT HIS NAME, HE'S BANISHED.
HE'S NOT BEETLEJUICE.
IT'S BRIAN. MAGIC BRIAN.
NOW IT IS MY TURN TO ASK A QUESTION.
Black Spider
Alias: Brian (Magic)
HOW THE FUCK DO YOU KNOW ABOUT THIS MAGICAL MINE...
...OF...
...UH...
...MINE?

BELIEVE IT OR NOT... CRAIGSLIST?

VELL, I DON'T BELIEVE IT.
I THINK YOU ARE HERE FOR THE

N...NO?
LOOK, BRIAN—MAY I CALL YOU BRI?
BRI-BRI, WE'RE BOTH MAGIC DUDES. CAN YOU EXPLAIN WHY OCCASIONALLY WHEN YOU TALK—IN YOUR TRULY MELLIFLUOUS VOICE, I MUST ADD—WE JUST HEAR STATIC?

PERHAPS...THE REASON YOU CAN'T HEAR IT VEN I SAY IS BECAUSE AND YOU ACTUALLY SO YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO UNDERSTAND THIS ?

SCREW THAT NOISE! I'M HERE FOR MY COUSIN!!
VICH COUSIN?
OH, VELL, I SUPPOSE IT VOULD HAVE TO BE...

THE ONLY SURVIVING ONE?

HIS NAME... IS...BOGARD.
UH... OF COURZE, OF COURZE! BOGARD!
GOODNESS, AREN'T YOU AN ANGRY LITTLE FELLOW.

YOU MAY MOST CERTAINLY TAKE... BOGARD. TAKE HIM AND GO.
EXCELLENT! PLEASURE DOING BUSINESS WITH YOU!

OH!
I DO NEED ONE MORE THING...

...A TINY BIT MORE OF HIS BLOOD.

LET ME AT HIM!!
THAT'S NOT GOING TO WORK FOR US.

LOOK, BRIAN... BRI-BRI...
WE'RE GONNA NEED TO TAKE BOGARD WITH US. AND THE ORC.
IN RETURN, YOU GET TO KEEP THE MAGICAL MYSTERY MINE...
...AND YOUR PERFECTLY SHAPED HEAD.

VELL! YOU SILVER-TONGUED DEVIL, YOU!

I APPRECIATE YOUR...SOMEWHAT BACKHANDED COMPLIMENT.

UNFORTUNATELY, I FIND YOUR SOLUTION... UNSATISFACTORY.
I'M AFRAID THIS IS WHERE OUR PLEASANT CHAT ENDS.

SPLUPHFF

OH, SCHNIKEY...
SKRIT SKRIT SKRRT
GENTLEMEN...
WELCOME...
TO FINAL BOSS TERRITORY!
HIS NAME IS ALSO BRYAN.
BUT IT'S BRYAN...WITH A "Y"!
BRYAN (SPIDER)
Race SPIDER
Class SPIDER
+ PROFICIENCIES +
→ Web spinning
→ Skittering
→ You know... spider stuff
LET'S GET IT ON!
IT'S ABOUT DAMNED TIME!

CLAP!
WHOA, NELLY! THAT'S A NEW ONE FROM TAAKO!
FWOOSH
HE CAST FIRE-MITTS ON THE WEBBING!
PERFECT CONICAL SHAPE! THAT'S HALL OF FAME MAGIC RIGHT THERE!
WHAT'S YOUR NAME, FRIEND?
IT'S KILLIAN. CAN WE DO THE SPIDER STUFF NOW?
WOW, OKAY.
SURE, FINE! TELL ME ABOUT YOUR DAD.
IS THAT WHAT YOU WANT TO DO RIGHT NOW?!
I'M MAGNUS. THE WIZARD IS TAAKO.
AND THE DWARF?
UH.
EARL?
...BERLE?
GREAT.
NOW, WILL ONE OF YOU GUYS–
–GIVE ME SOMETHING GOOD FOR SQUISHING SPIDERS?

TRY THIS!
WHI-CLANG KRAKK
WHI-KLANG CRAKK
WHIP IT!!
WHIP IT, GOOD!!
OH, COME ON.
YOU GOTTA LET ME HAVE THAT ONE.

WHIRL WHIRL
SNAP!
DUCK!
yank!
KA-CHANK
teeter teeter
OKAY, MAGNUS, YOU CAN DO THIS!
SPIDERS ARE JUST BIG, HAIRY TURDS WITH LEGS!
WHUUMP!

SLARRSH!
SKREEE!!
GROSS-GROSS-GROSS!
LOOK VAT YOU HAFF DONE TO MY GOOD, GOOD BOY!
YOU HAFF COMPLETELY RUINED HIS AESTHETIC!
shudder
TAAKO CASTS MAGIC MISSILES–
OUCH RAYS!
SORRY. OUCH RAYS.
I'M TRYING TO BUILD MY BRAND.
I LIKE IT! IT ALMOST SOUNDS FRENCH!
WHUMF-WHUMF-WHUMF!

THOSE LOOKED A BIT LIKE MAGIC MISSILES?
I'M NOT COMPLETELY SURE,
BECAUSE THIS IS HOW THEY LOOK VEN I CAST THEM!
WHUNK! WHUNK! WHUNK!
SLAM!
SLAM!
SLAM!
WELCOME TO THE WIZARD'S DUEL, PALLY!
...CAN'T SAY... I'M...A FAN.
TAAKO!

WHIIRL!
WHIRL!
WHI-RAKK CLANG!
WHI CLANG-KRACK!!
SKREEE!!
HOW'S THAT FEAR OF SPIDERS TREATING YOU?
I PREFER... THE TERM...
NON-PROFICIENCY... WITH...SPIDERS...
HOW'S THAT "NOT HELPING KILL THE MONSTER THING" TREATING YOU?!
glug

HE'S RIGHT, MERLE.
YOU'RE UP.
WHAT'S IT GONNA BE?
WHAT'S YOUR MOVE?
IS THERE SOME KIND OF SPELL WHERE YOU CAN PICK UP SOMETHING HEAVY AND THROW IT?
OHHH! I KNOW WHERE YOU'RE GOING WITH THIS!
fwash!
GRAB!
NOT WHERE I WAS GOING!
NOT WHERE I WAS GOING!
...OH, WHAT THE HELL...
WE'LL MAKE IT WORK.
CAN-NON-BALL!!

WHAMMO BLAMMO!
YANK!
teeter teeter
NOOOOO!
EARL!!
WHIRR WHIRR!
CHA-CLANK-

SLA-CLINK!
BRYAN VIT A "Y"!!!
HE VAS ONE DAY FROM SPIDER RETIREMENT!
YOU PEOPLE HAVE VEXED ME.
I AM SO, SO DESPERATELY SAD.
DID WE WIN?
HEY.
MAGIC BRIAN.

ABRACA-FUCK YOU!
WHUMP!
WHUMP!
WHUMP!

IT SEEMS...
...YOU HAFF LEARNED WELL FROM ME...
YOU TOOK SOME...POINTERS FROM MY...RAD MAGIC MISSILES...?
HELLOOOO...?
??
BRUSH BRUSH
OH–!
–WERE YOU WAITING FOR ME?
I ACTUALLY ALREADY SAID MY ONE COOL THING.

IT SEEMS MY GOOSE MIGHT BE—HOW DO YOU SAY IT—COOKED?
SO HOW DO YOU LIKE—
—ZIS!
OH, SHIT!
WHAP!
WHAP!
PHEW!
WHAP!
WHAP!
SLAP.

WHO DIDN'T SEE *THAT* COMING?
ME.
OKAY...
I SEE WHAT HE'S TRYING TO DO HERE!
I'M THE *REAL* BOGARD!
I CAN TELL YOU ANYTHING YOU WANT TO KNOW ABOUT MYSELF! MY CLAN! ANYTHING!
YOU HAVE TO BELIEVE ME!
WOOP!

NNNNOO!
ZE FELLOW ON ZE RIGHT IS ZE IMPOSTER!
I AM ZE REAL BOGARD STONESEEKER!
UHHH
WAIT!
MAYBE MAGIC BRIAN CURSED BOGARD TO SOUND LIKE HE HAD A RIDICULOUS ACCENT...?
DAT IS EXZACTLY VAT HE DID!
DAT IS A BAD, BAD BOY VIT ALL KINDS OF SINISTER MAGICKINGS!!
FINISH HIM OFF AND LET'S GET ON WITH OUR FUN ADVENTU–
PUNT!

OH NOOO!
YOU HAFF SOLVED MY FINAL RIDDLE!
YOU HAVE PROVEN YOURSELVES TO BE QUITE THE ADVENTURERS...
YOU MUST BE DECLARED ZE RIDDLE MASTERS...
BLURRK
OH, I'VE LANDED ON BRYAN...
HE VASN'T AS SOFT AS I WOULD HAVE IMAGINED... DIDN'T REALLY BREAK MY FALL ALL ZAT MUCH...
I THINK I AM DOING THE DYING NOW...ZE LIFE IS FLAGGING FROM MY BODY...
OH! I SEE MY FAMILY–
WHAMSH
...
PHEW.

Chapter 7

I CANNOT BELIEVE YOU GUYS AREN'T TOTALLY DEAD!
MAGIC BRIAN IS ONE OF THE MOST ACCOMPLISHED, POWERFUL WIZARDS I HAVE EVER ENCOUNTERED!
I AM FLABBERGASTED, FRANKLY, THAT WE ALL DID NOT PERISH!
YOU'RE... WELCOME... I GUESS?
WE'RE PRETTY MUCH RAD.
IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME, I NEED TO RECOVER SOMETHING VERY QUICKLY.
NONE OF YOU LEAVE!!
HOLD UP, HOLD UP!
BEFORE YOU GO ANYWHERE,
WHAT THE HELL IS THIS ALL ABOUT?!
I PROMISE:
I WILL TELL YOU
AS SOON AS I AM LITERALLY ABLE TO.

LISTEN. I HAVE A LITTLE BIT OF MAGICAL EXPERTISE.
I ASSUME THIS STATIC SHIT WHEN YOU TALK IS SOME SORT OF...CURSE?
PREVENTING FURTHER DISCUSSION FROM TAKING PLACE?
YOU ASSUME WRONG...
DONK
Shhwash
...SUPER DUPER WRONG.
...
...SLOW-FALL SPELL.
YEAH, GUESSED THAT.
REEEALLY SLOW-FALL SPELL.
KINDA ANTI-CLIMACTIC, BUT WHATEV.
A-F-K!
AWESOME... FLAMING... KOBOLDS?
ANGRY.... FIGHTERS... KILL?
AWAY FLOATS KILLIAN.

UHN...
HOW ARE YOU FEELING?
WELL, I SMOKE THREE PACKS A DAY. I DRINK A SIX-PACK A DAY, AND THEN EAT THE BOTTLES. I'VE BEEN EATING INSULATION FOR YEARS...
THAT'S NOT GOOD.
YEAH, I'M REAL FUCKED UP OVER HERE.
Bogard Stonesecker
Race DWARF
Class ENGINEER
+ PROFICIENCIES +
→ Mining
→ Ancestry
→ Plot point-ing
I CAN'T BELIEVE LIL COUSIN MERLEY AND HIS PALS SAVED ME FROM MAGIC BRIAN!
WHY IS EVERYBODY SO SHOCKED?
WHERE'S BARRY, BY THE WAY?
OH, HE'S GOOD.
HANGING OUT BACK AT THE BAR.
HE SAID HE HAD TO WAIT FOR HIS ORDER OF CHICKEN WINGS AND THEN HE'D MEET RIGHT UP WITH US.
HAH! TYPICAL BARRY!
SO, LITTLE DUDE... WHY WAS MAGIC BRIAN WANTING ALL YOUR BLOOD?
COME ON AND I'LL SHOW YOU.

THIS DUNGEON DIDN'T LOOK QUITE THIS BIG IN THE BROCHURE.
WOW. HAVEN'T SEEN ANYTHING LIKE THIS BEFORE.
YES, YES, YOU'RE IN ANOTHER BIG AWESOME ROOM WITH A BIG AWESOME DOOR. SUE ME.
OR MAKE A PERCEPTION CHECK.
OOH! DIBS!
WHAT DID YOU FIND, VALIANT TAAKO?
NOTHING! NOT A DAMNED THING! JUST SOME CORPSE IN A ROBE HOLDING...
ITEM NAME ? NATURE ?? POWERS ?????
HEY, YOU... DWARF.
THERE'S A CANE HERE TO CHECK OUT!

DETECT THE MAGIC!
COME ON! IS THAT REALLY THE BEST YOU CAN DO?
DETECT-O MAGIC-...O!

WHOA! FAR OUT...
YOU COOL, DUDE?
FEELING KIND OF WACKY. THIS CANE...
IT'S ALL SCHOOLS OF MAGIC! ALL OF THEM ARE CRAMMED IN THERE!

YOU SHOULD PROBABLY WRAP IT IN SOMETHING WHEN YOU PICK IT UP? MAYBE THE ROBE...?
I THINK I KNOW HOW TO HANDLE—

HUMMM

WHOOOOM
OH, GOLLY!

THUD.
...
MY TURN!
WAIT A MINUTE!
WAIT A MINUTE!
LET ME PAINT A PICTURE OF WHAT JUST HAPPENED:
MERLE GRABS IT, GETS BLASTED ACROSS THE ROOM, TAKES DAMAGE— AND YOU GO "MY TURN" AND JUST GO FOR IT?
I LIVE LIKE I'M DYIN'!
WHOOM
WHOOM
WHOOM

FTOOMP
SO. NOW I HAVE...
...AN UMBRELLA.
ITEM NAME
?????
NATURE
EXTREMELY MAGICAL
POWERS
→?????
→??????
→REBUFFING RAIN
OWWW!
DON'T BE SUCH A BABY!
HEY, PAL! I SAVED ALL YOUR ASSES!! I KILLED THE BIG SPIDER!
YOU WERE A PROJECTILE.
WHAT THE SHIT!!
WHAT WAS ALL THAT LIGHTNING ABOUT? AND A MAGIC UMBRELLA?! YOU GUYS ARE OFF THE HOOK!!
HANDLE IT! THAT'S HOW WE DO.

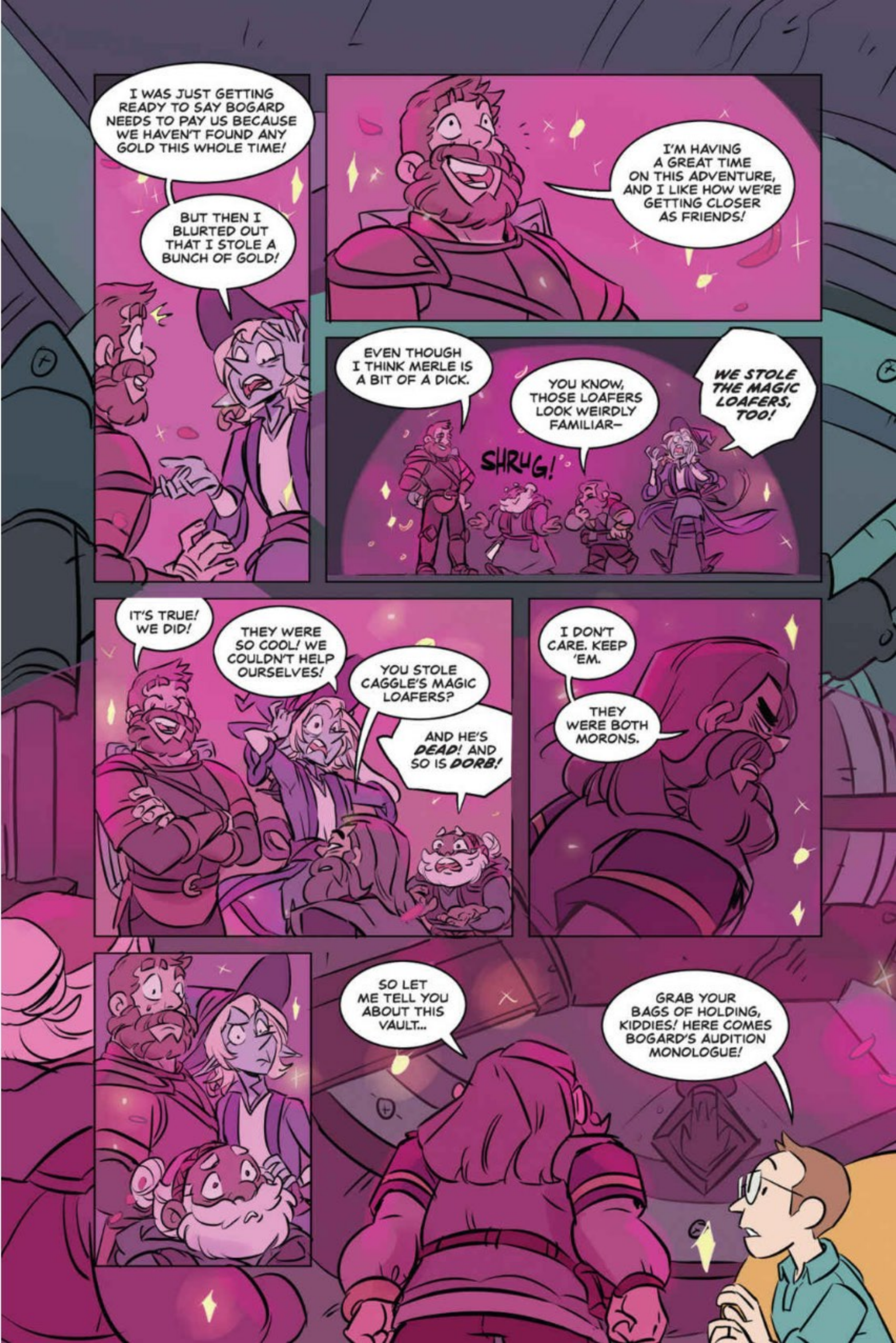
ALL RIGHT, YOU GUYS DESERVE SOME ANSWERS–
YES!
RIGHT.
AND SOME MONEY.
MY FATHER–
WAIT!
HOLD ON A SECOND!
I THINK IT'S IMPORTANT TO GET THE TRUTH OUT OF MY COUSIN HERE.
YOU WANNA BEAT IT OUT OF HIM?
NO!!
I HAVE A THING CALLED...
...ZONE OF TRUTH!
SUUURE YOU DO.
NO, NO– IT'S A GREAT IDEA.
GO FOR IT!

IF I WERE YOU, I WOULD TRY TO DO IT UNDER YOUR BREATH.
OH.
HANG ON... I HAVE TO SNEEZE.
AAH-
AAAHHH-
ACHOO ZONE of TRUTH.
DID YOU JUST CAST SOME SORT OF MAGIC SPELL ON ME?
YES! I CAST ZONE OF TRUTH, WHICH FORCES YOU TO SAY ONLY TRUE STATEMENTS!
NO ONE WITHIN THE AREA OF EFFECT CAN RESIST ITS POWER!
INCLUDING YOURSELF.
INCLUDING MYS-
SLAP.
DAMMIT.

I DON'T REALLY COTTON TO THAT!
I DON'T "COTTON" TO YOU SENDING US ON A MISSION TO GET OUR ASSES KICKED!

I DON'T "COTTON" TO GETTING SHOT AND MAULED BY WOLVES!

AND I REALLY DON'T "COTTON" TO STUMBLING ACROSS DEAD RELATIVES EVERY WHIPSTITCH!!
I STOLE A BUNCH OF GOLD!


I WAS JUST GETTING READY TO SAY BOGARD NEEDS TO PAY US BECAUSE WE HAVEN'T FOUND ANY GOLD THIS WHOLE TIME!
BUT THEN I BLURTED OUT THAT I STOLE A BUNCH OF GOLD!
I'M HAVING A GREAT TIME ON THIS ADVENTURE, AND I LIKE HOW WE'RE GETTING CLOSER AS FRIENDS!
EVEN THOUGH I THINK MERLE IS A BIT OF A DICK.
YOU KNOW, THOSE LOAFERS LOOK WEIRDLY FAMILIAR–
SHRUG!
WE STOLE THE MAGIC LOAFERS, TOO!
IT'S TRUE! WE DID!
THEY WERE SO COOL! WE COULDN'T HELP OURSELVES!
YOU STOLE CAGGLE'S MAGIC LOAFERS?
AND HE'S DEAD! AND SO IS DORB!
I DON'T CARE. KEEP 'EM.
THEY WERE BOTH MORONS.
SO LET ME TELL YOU ABOUT THIS VAULT...
GRAB YOUR BAGS OF HOLDING, KIDDIES! HERE COMES BOGARD'S AUDITION MONOLOGUE!

YEARS AGO, A HORDE OF ORC MARAUDERS ATTACKED HAVERDALE.
IT WASN'T REALLY THE TOWN THEY CARED ABOUT...

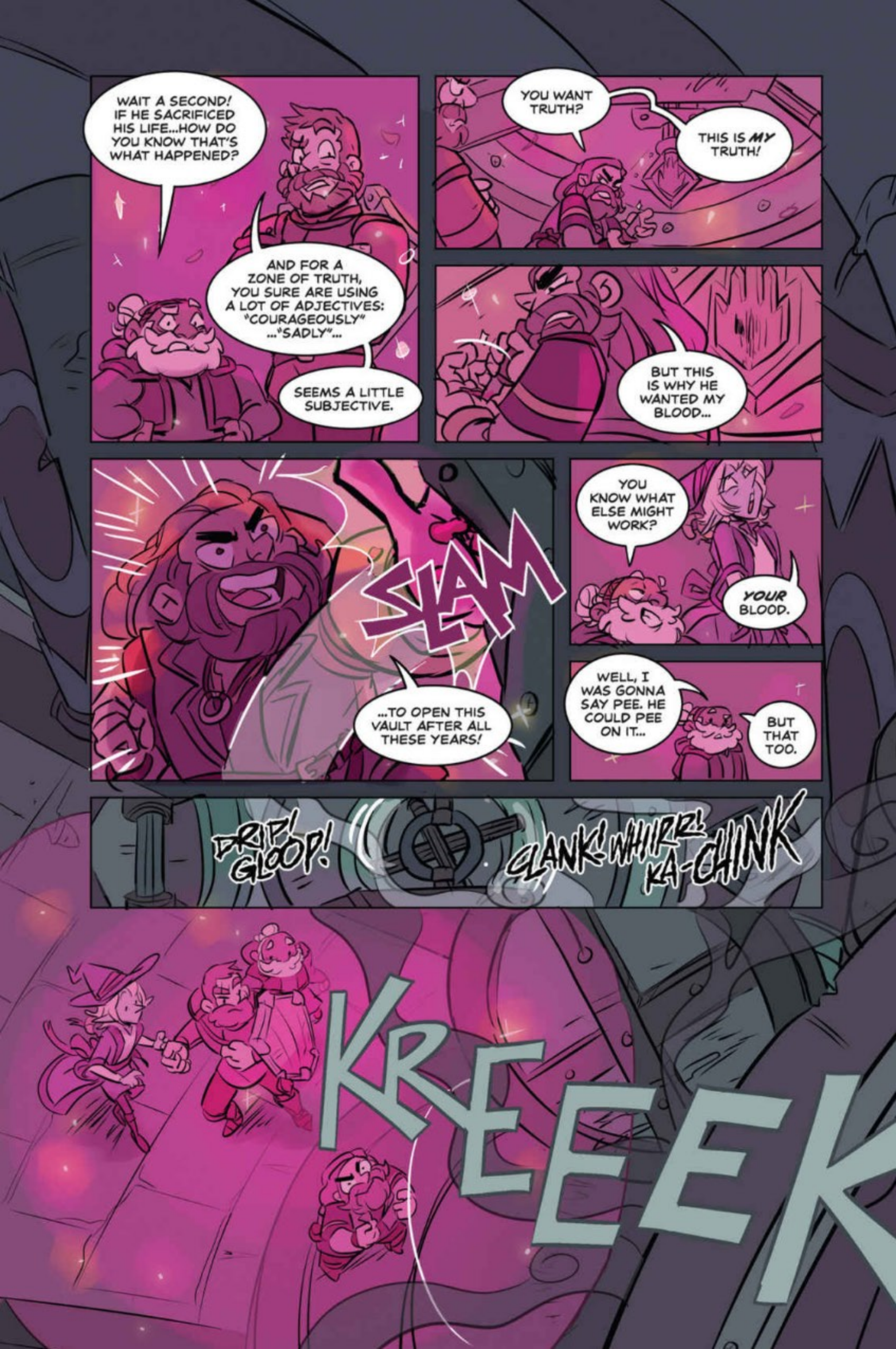
THOSE SHITHEADS WANTED THE MINE! AND THE MYSTIC ORE! AND ALL THE ARTIFACTS MADE OF THAT MYSTIC ORE!

MY FATHER—YOUR UNCLE, MERLE—WAS HEAD OF SECURITY FOR THE MINE.
HE GRABBED ALL THE MAGIC GEAR AND ORE AND SQUIRRELED IT AWAY IN THE VAULT.

ONLY MY FATHER'S BLOOD COULD OPEN THE VAULT AND THOSE DAMNED ORC MARAUDERS KNEW IT.
SO HE DID THE ONLY THING HE COULD DO...

WHOOOM!
...HE COURAGEOUSLY LOCKED HIMSELF INSIDE THE VAULT!

...SADLY SACRIFICING HIS LIFE TO KEEP IT ALL OUT OF THOSE BASTARDS' FILTHY HANDS!
HUMMM


WAIT A SECOND! IF HE SACRIFICED HIS LIFE...HOW DO YOU KNOW THAT'S WHAT HAPPENED?
AND FOR A ZONE OF TRUTH, YOU SURE ARE USING A LOT OF ADJECTIVES: "COURAGEOUSLY" ..."SADLY"...
SEEMS A LITTLE SUBJECTIVE.
YOU WANT TRUTH?
THIS IS MY TRUTH!
BUT THIS IS WHY HE WANTED MY BLOOD...
SLAM
...TO OPEN THIS VAULT AFTER ALL THESE YEARS!
YOU KNOW WHAT ELSE MIGHT WORK?
YOUR BLOOD.
WELL, I WAS GONNA SAY PEE. HE COULD PEE ON IT...
BUT THAT TOO.
DRIP! GLOOP!
CLANK! WHIRR! KA-CHINK
KREEEEK

IT WOULD BE AWESOME IF ONE OF US COULD CAST SOME KIND OF LIGHT SPELL...
NO SHIT.
HE MEANS YOU.

SNAP!

LAVENDER. VERY CALMING.

PLINK

IT'S LIKE...
...BLACK GLASS...?
PLINK PLINK

SOMETHING'S NOT RIGHT.
NO SHIT, GENIUS.

?????
????
→?? →???
→????

BRO!!!
I WON'T LEAVE YOU HANGING!

FWASH!

GOOD GOING, DIPSHIT.
THAT'S ABOUT THREE DAMAGE.
TOTALLY WORTH IT.

NO, NO, NO, NO, NO!!

SO THE DWARF-SHAPED CHARCOAL BRIQUETTE? HIS FATHER, RIGHT?
YEP, THAT'S GOTTA BE MY UNCLE.
HE DOESN'T SEEM REAL TORN UP ABOUT IT.
!!

MY FAMILY IS PRETTY FUCKED UP.

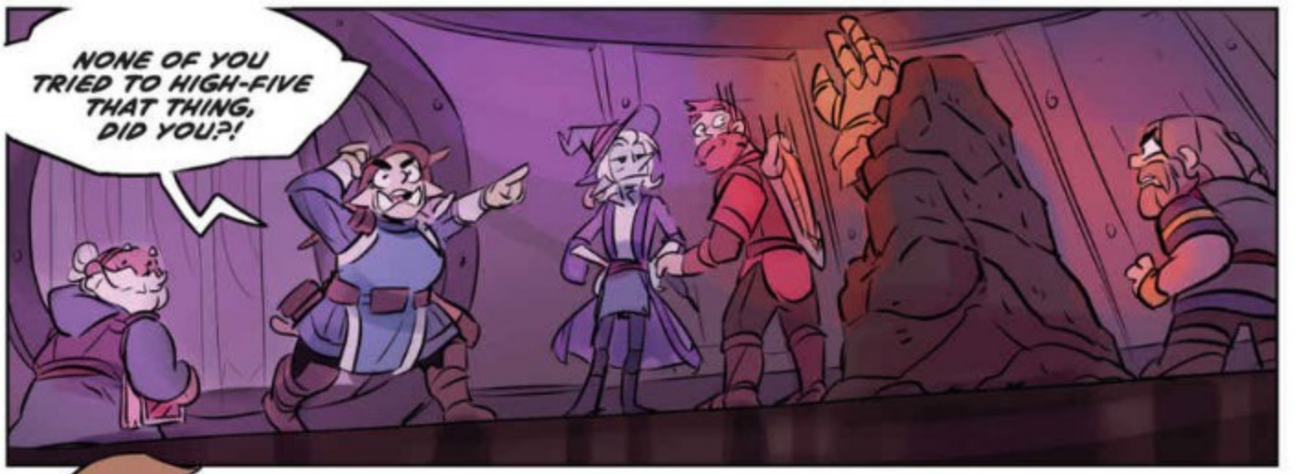
THIS VAULT IS SUPPOSED TO BE FILLED WITH MAGICAL WEAPONS AND ARMAMENTS!
WHERE IS ALL OF IT?! I DON'T UNDERSTAND!!
HEY, HEY, CALM DOWN THERE, BUCKO—
WHAT

DID I
TELL YOU?!

NUDGE NUDGE NUDGE

I TOLD YOU GUYS TO STAY PUT!
WE GOT BORED! YOU WERE GONE FOR FOUR HOURS!
IT WAS LIKE A MINUTE AND A HALF!!
WHY DO YOU NOT LISTEN TO ME?!

OH, NO...


NONE OF YOU TRIED TO HIGH-FIVE THAT THING, DID YOU?!

ARE WE STILL IN THE TRUTH CIRCLE THING?
NO, THAT WAS BACK IN THE OTHER ROOM.
THEN...

NO.
GOD, NO!

YOU'D HAVE TO BE A COMPLETE IDIOT TO HIGH-FIVE THAT THING!
WELL, I DON'T KNOW ABOUT THAT.

ARE YOU GUYS HERE WITH THIS FILTHY ORC?
WHOA! HEY!
LET'S CHEESE IT WITH THE RACISM, BOGIE!
DID YOU JUST CALL ME... "FILTHY"?
COME ON, NOW! LET'S BUILD BRIDGES, NOT WALLS!
OKAY, BOGIE, WHY DON'T YOU DIAL DOWN THE HATE A TAD...
...AND LET ME HAVE THE GAUNTLET.
THIS GAUNTLET AND EVERYTHING IN THIS VAULT IS MY BIRTHRIGHT! THERE'S NO WAY I AM GIVING THIS THING UP TO YOU!
DOOOOOON'T TEST ME! I HAVE HAD A REALLY LONG DAY! I GOT ALL WEBBED UP IN THAT OTHER ROOM, AND I HATED THAT!
BOYS, YOU'VE SERVED ME WELL. I HAVE ONE LAST JOB FOR YOU...
I NEED YOU TO TAKE HER OUT.

NOBODY IS TAKING ANYBODY OUT!
COUNT TO TEN OR SOMETHING!

BOGARD, DO YOU KNOW WHY THIS ROOM IS EMPTY AND THERE'S A GAUNTLET ON THAT DUDE'S HAND?
"THAT DUDE" WAS MY FATHER! AND NO, I DON'T KNOW WHY IT'S THE ONLY THING IN THE VAULT—
BUT I KNOW THAT IT'S MINE!

KILLIAN, DO YOU KNOW WHAT THAT THING IS?
I HAVE A PRETTY GOOD GODDAMN IDEA, YEAH.

THAT IS THE WHOLE REASON I WAS SENT HERE! TO STOP MAGIC BRIAN FROM GETTING THE SCHMOXXX

SEE, IT KIND OF SOUNDS LIKE SOMEONE FRYING BACON WHILE PLAYING THE MARACAS.
I WOULD KILL FOR SOME BACON RIGHT NOW.
TELL ME ABOUT IT.

LISTEN, WHATEVER-YOUR-NAME-IS! YOU DO NOT KNOW WHAT YOU ARE DEALING WITH!
YOU ARE DONE HERE. DONE!
STEP
OFF.
ORRRRR!
HERE'S A BETTER IDEA—!
GRAB!
NO!

CLIK
WHOOMSH!
AAAHHH!!
IF ANYBODY CARES, I TOTALLY SAW THIS COMING.
THE GRABBING, THE FIRE, THE DYING...THE WHOLE NINE YARDS.
TOTALLY SAW IT.
EXCEPT,
HE'S NOT DEAD...
OKAY, THAT'S KIND OF UNEXPECTED.
I...
FEEL...
...PRETTY?
OH, SO PRETTY?
PRETTY, AND WITTY, AND BRIGH–
NO!
I FEEL...

...POWERFUL.
TWANG
FIERY BOGARD
PROFICIENCIES
He is on fire.
FWASH!
COO-OO-OO-L!
ALL RIGHT. EVERYONE LISTEN TO ME VERY, VERY CAREFULLY...
WE NEED TO BACK UP SLOWLY AND GET AWAY FROM THE FIERY DWARF NOW.

HAVE AT THEE!!
WHOOMPH!
IF IT'S ANY CONSOLATION, I SAW THAT COMING, TOO.
SLIDEE
I'M DONE WITH THIS!
fwooOOo-h

THAT WENT
ABOUT AS SHITTY
AS IT POSSIBLY COULD HAVE GONE.

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?! I ALMOST HAD HIM!
OF COURSE YOU DID, KITTEN.

LISTEN.

I'VE GOT TO STOP HIM BEFORE HE DESTROYS THE WHOLE WORLD.
AND I'M GOING TO NEED YOUR HELP TO DO IT.

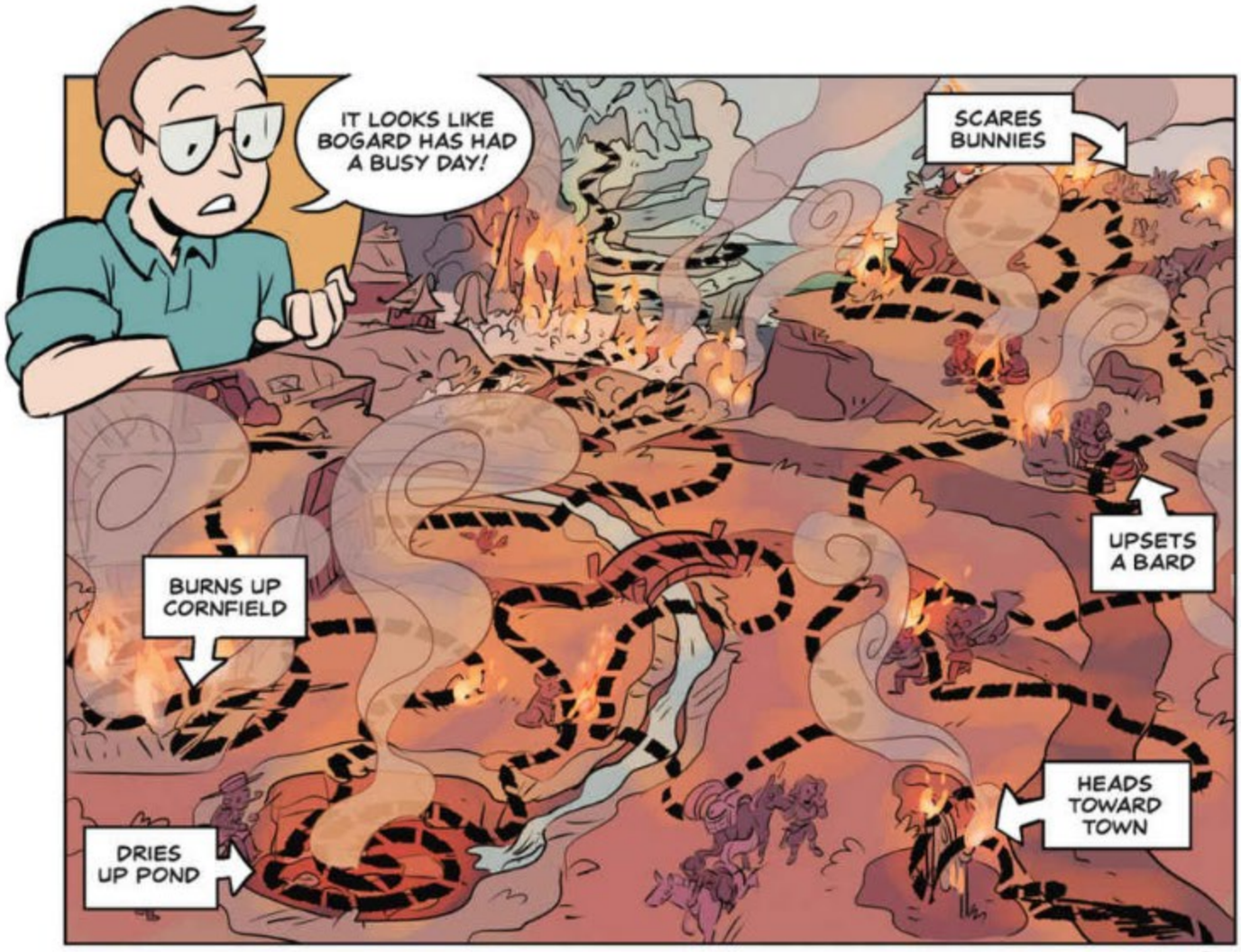
DON'T GET ME WRONG...THIS IS WAY ABOVE YOUR PAY GRADE.
YOUR CHANCES OF SURVIVING ARE SLIM TO NONE.
BUT YOU'RE ALL I'VE GOT.

ARE YOU DOWN?!

...SURE.
YEAH.
WHY THE HELL NOT.

Chapter 8

FORTUNATELY, I HAVE A PROFICIENCY IN TRACKING!
I THINK WE'RE GOOD ON THIS ONE.
BABE! FERDINAND!
YOU'RE NOT ALL BURNT UP!
HE'S HEADED FOR HAVERDALE, ISN'T HE?
ABSOLUTELY.
WE'D BETTER BOOK IT.


IT LOOKS LIKE BOGARD HAS HAD A BUSY DAY!
SCARES BUNNIES
UPSETS A BARD
BURNS UP CORNFIELD
HEADS TOWARD TOWN
DRIES UP POND

SO, BOGARD: STILL BURNING...
THIS WAY TO
HAVERDALE
YEARS SINCE LAST DESTRUCTION

I'M TELLING YOU, HE'S GOING AFTER BARRY BLUEJEANS!
WHY? TO INCINERATE HIM?
BOGARD MAY BE AN ASSHOLE, BUT HE'S STILL FAMILY! I WANT TO STOP HIM BEFORE HE HURTS HIMSELF OR ANYONE ELSE!
UHH...

I THINK THAT SHIP DONE SAILED.

HE MAY BE A THREE-ALARM HATE-MONGER, BUT HE SEEMS TO HAVE A HEALTHY RESPECT FOR ARCHITECTURE. THESE BUILDINGS ARE UNTOUCHED.
SLAM!
SHUT

AHHH!
EXCEPT FOR THAT ONE.
THAT'S OUR BARRY!

I'M RUSHING IN!
GOTTA LOVE HIS CONSISTENCY, AT LEAST.

AHHH!
FWOOSH

OH MY GOD!!

IT'S YOU GUYS!!
HOW ARE YOU NOT DEAD?!
CAREFUL! THAT'S COUTURE, MY DUDE!

YOU GUYS HAVE TO HELP ME!! I'VE NEVER SEEN HIM LIKE THIS!
YOU MEAN ENGULFED IN FLAMES AND ALL MAGICAL AND SHIT?
BRUSH
BRUSH

WELL, THAT, AND HOW BIZARRE HE'S ACTING!
LIKE, HE'S NOT KNOWN FOR HIS CALM DEMEANOR, BUT I'VE NEVER SEEN HIM GET THIS PISSED.

LISTEN TO ME...

IF WE FIGHT HIM RIGHT NOW, WE ARE GOING TO LOSE.

HE'S MORE POWERFUL THAN ANYBODY YOU HAVE EVER MET.
HELL, HE'S MORE POWERFUL THAN ANYONE *I'VE* EVER MET.

HE WILL INCINERATE ANYBODY WHO DEFIES HIM.
WE NEED TO CALM HIM DOWN AND *GET THAT GAUNTLET OFF HIM.*

YOU'RE GOING TO ATTACK, AREN'T YOU?
I KINDA THINK I AM, YEAH.
FWAAASHHH!

KA-FOOM!
ATTACK ME?!
WHY WOULD YOU WANT TO ATTACK ME?
NOW THAT I FINALLY HAVE ENOUGH POWER TO GET RID OF ALL THE DAMN ORCS!!
I'M GONNA CAST "CHARM PERSON" AGAIN!
YOU'RE GONNA NEED TO CRIT-20 THAT BAD BOY!
YOU KNOW WHAT?
WE'RE GOOD. I THINK WE'RE GOOD.

BOGARD, LISTEN! THAT GAUNTLET IS CONSUMING YOU!

REMEMBER YOUR FATHER IN THE VAULT!
IF YOU DON'T REMOVE THE GLOVE, YOU ARE GOING TO DIE!

I CAN... CONTROL IT.
YOU CAN'T!

LOOK AT YOURSELF! THIS ISN'T LIKE YOU!
HAH!!
YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT I'M LIKE!!

I DO.

YOUR OLD COUSIN KNOWS YOU.

IT'S ME! GOOD OLD COUSIN MERLE. REMEMBER CANDLENIGHTS AT AUNT BLARG'S HOUSE? SITTING AROUND DRINKING MULLED WINE?
I MISS HER SO MUCH.

AUNT BLARG WAS A GOOD, GOOD WOMAN.
SHE WAS A GOOD WOMAN...

...UNTIL SHE WAS KILLED BY THOSE DAMNED ORCS!!
NO SHE WASN'T!

SHE WAS RUN OVER BY A MANURE CART WHILE SHE WAS CROSSING THE STREET TO BUY SMOKES!
MAYBE AN ORC WAS DRIVING!
HEE-HEE!!
SORRY!
SORRY!
IS THIS WHAT SHE WOULD HAVE WANTED?
WOULD SHE HAVE WANTED YOU TO KILL ALL THESE INNOCENT FOLKS? AND BURN YOUR OWN ASS UP AT THE SAME TIME?
I DON'T THINK SO.
SHE LOVED YOU AN AWFUL LOT.

WHY DON'T YOU JUST TAKE OFF THE GAUNTLET?
I...

I DON'T THINK I CAN...
SURE YOU CAN. I'M RIGHT HERE WITH YOU.

I'M SCARED... AND I'M WEARY... AND I HURT.
GET 'IM BARRY!
THIS IS YOUR MOMENT!
AREN'T YOU TIRED OF THE FIRE AND THE PAIN?
DON'T YOU THINK IT WOULD FEEL A LOT BETTER IF YOU GOT A LITTLE REST?

JUST TAKE OFF THE GAUNTLET AND EVERYTHING IS GONNA BE OKAY.
I COULD USE A LITTLE NIPPY NAP...

I GOT HIM!
SOMEBODY GRAB THE GLOVE!

NOOOOO!!
WHOOOM!
WHOOM!
WHOOM!
WHOOM!
WHOOOM!!!
FIERY BOGARD
+ PROFICIENCIES +
→ You've got to be kidding.

I MAY HAVE NOT THOUGHT THIS OUT ALL THE WAY...
WHOOMAASHH!!!
OKAY!
TIME TO GO!

C'MON! C'MON! C'MON! C'MON! C'MON!
WHAT ABOUT BARRY?
PRETTY SURE HE'S DEAD!
GET TO THE WELL!
GET TO THE WELL!
GET TO THE WELL!
BYE!!
I'M NOT LEAVING WITH ALL THESE PEOPLE HERE!!
MAGNUS...
YOU CAN'T SAVE EVERYBODY.
MAYBE NOT–
–BUT THAT DOESN'T MEAN YOU CAN'T TRY.
WELL... SHIT.

EVERYBODY GET OUT!!! RUN!!
YOU HEARD THE BIG DUMMY!! GET THE HELL OUT OF HERE!!
WE MIGHT SURVIVE IN HERE, BUT WE HAVE TO GO NOW!
NOT THAT I CARE OR ANYTHING...
BUT WHAT ABOUT THE DWARF AND THE BIG GUY?
THEY'RE GOING TO BE FINE!
YOU'RE LYING, RIGHT?
OF COURSE I'M LYING!

AAARRR
MAYBE NOW WOULD BE GOOD?
I'M A HERO, NOT AN IDIOT.
ACTUALLY, YOU'RE BOTH IDIOTS!!
COME ON!!
WHO-OOM

WHOOM
WHOOM
BONK
DONK
CLONK
WHUMP!
WHUMP!
WHUMP!
WHONK!

WHOOOO
HOOOM!

Chapter 9

SO...
HERE WE ARE AT THE BOTTOM OF A WELL.

I GUESS WE JUST...
...LIVE DOWN HERE NOW?
UNLESS EITHER OF YOU CLOWNS KNOWS HOW TO FLY.

IS KILLIAN... DEAD?
JUST KNOCKED OUT, I THINK.

OF COURSE...
THAT MAY BE BECAUSE WE CRASHED INTO HER.

IT WAS HER DUMB IDEA TO DIVE INTO A WELL.
THAT'S TRUE. THIS IS ON HER.

AND SO ARE WE.

SNRK
SNRK
PFFT

HA
HA
HA
HA
HA
HA
HA
HA
HA
HA

YOU KNOW, BOYS...
I'M STARTING TO THINK WE MAY SUCK AT THIS.

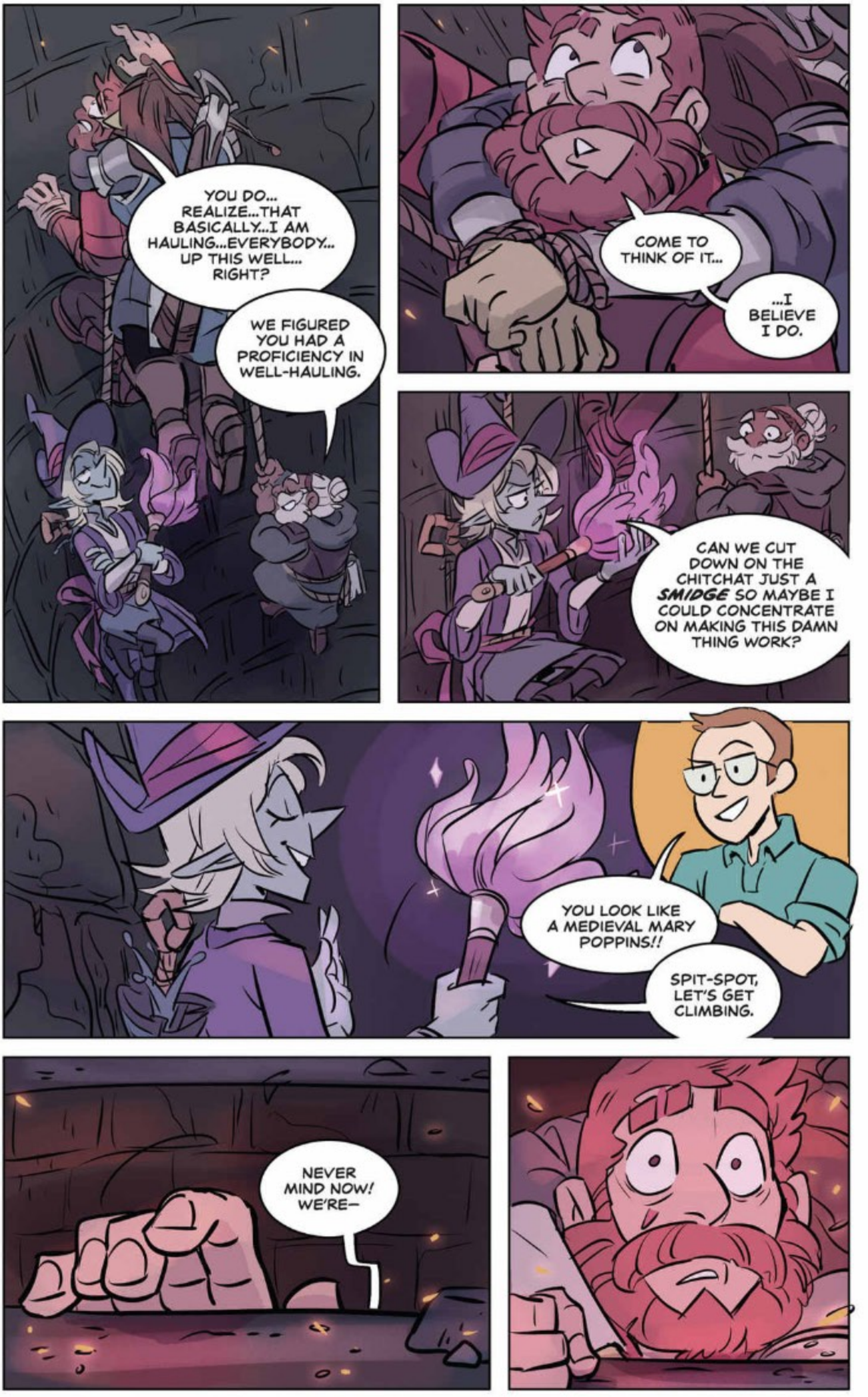
I'M PRETTY SURE I COULD CLIMB OUT OF THIS THING.
MAYBE HAUL YOU GUYS UP ONCE I GET UP THERE?
YOU SHOULD HAUL KILLIAN'S CORPSE UP, TOO.
I TOLD YOU: SHE'S JUST KNOCKED OUT.
LET ME CHECK...

HOW'S IT GOING?!!

I WAS WRONG BEFORE!
PRETTY SURE SHE'S DEAD.
SHE WOULD WANT ME TO HAVE THIS.

SHE'S NOT DEAD, YOU GREEDY JERKS, AND WE'RE NOT GOING TO LEAVE HER IN THIS WELL.

ALTHOUGH I DO THINK SHE'D BE MUCH MORE COMFORTABLE WITHOUT HAVING TO LUG THIS COOL CONTROL THING AROUND.


YOU DO... REALIZE...THAT BASICALLY...I AM HAULING...EVERYBODY... UP THIS WELL... RIGHT?
WE FIGURED YOU HAD A PROFICIENCY IN WELL-HAULING.
COME TO THINK OF IT...
...I BELIEVE I DO.
CAN WE CUT DOWN ON THE CHITCHAT JUST A SMIDGE SO MAYBE I COULD CONCENTRATE ON MAKING THIS DAMN THING WORK?
YOU LOOK LIKE A MEDIEVAL MARY POPPINS!!
SPIT-SPOT, LET'S GET CLIMBING.
NEVER MIND NOW! WE'RE–

THERE'S NOTHING LEFT.

LOOK, I'VE HAD TO LEAVE TOWNS IN A HURRY BEFORE.
IT'S NEVER UNFIXABLE.

WE'LL TAKE UP A COLLECTION AND IF THE VILLAGERS DIG DEEP ENOUGH INTO THEIR POCKETS FOR THE REBUILDING FUND I'M SURE—

...EVERYTHING'S GONE.
EVERYBODY'S GONE!
WHAT THE FUCK IS THAT THING?

KILLIAN MUST KNOW SOMETHING ABOUT IT, RIGHT? SHE SAID SHE WAS SENT HERE BECAUSE OF IT.

SO THE ONE PERSON WHO COULD HANDLE THE GAUNTLET IS ASLEEP.
NOT ASLEEP. SHE'S UNCONSCIOUS. SHE'S NOT WAKING UP ANYTIME SOON.
SO...WHAT DO WE DO?

COULD WE CUT OFF BOGARD'S ARM?
WHAT KIND OF MONSTER ARE YOU?

WE KNOW TOUCHING THE GLOVE FROM THE OUTSIDE IS NOT GOOD. AND PUTTING IT ON IS REALLY STUPID.

UNLESS...
...UNLESSSSS...

WHAT IF ONE OF US JUST NEEDS TO CONTROL IT BETTER THAN BOGARD DID?
"ONE OF US," HUH...
YOU. HE MEANS YOU.
I'M NOT GETTING MY ASS BLASTED OFF AGAIN.
IF THIS WORKS, I'M PAWNING THE HELL OUT OF IT.
HI THERE, TAAKO!
I WAS THINKING WE MIGHT WANT TO BE FRIENDS!
NOT ONLY AM I SEETHING WITH MYSTICAL ENERGY, BUT YOU KNOW I WOULD LOOK AMAZING ON YOU!
WHAT DO YOU SAY, PAL?
Gauntlet
Power Level: Off the charts, baby
Weakness: A bit chatty

NOPE!
I HATE NEEDY ACCESSORIES.
CHECK THIS OUT.
I CAST SENSE MECHANISM!
YOU DON'T KNOW HOW TO DO THAT.
NO, I DON'T.
THAT'S IT. I'M GONNA TRY AND WAKE HER UP. MAYBE I HAVE AN ANTI-CONCUSSION SPELL OR SOMETHING.
I THINK IT'S MY LAST SPELL SLOT.
OH, LIKE YOU'VE REALLY BEEN KEEPING TRACK OF THAT!!
LET'S DO ONE THING FIRST.

BLINK BLINK
DID...DID WE SAVE... HAVERDALE?

NOT SO MUCH.

I'M PRETTY SURE I'M GOING TO NEED MY CROSSBOW.
OH.
AND I'M PRETTY SURE I NEED YOU TO UNTIE ME.
AND WE'RE "PRETTY SURE" WE COULD HAVE DONE A LOT MORE FOR HAVERDALE...

IF WE HAD KNOWN WHAT THE *FUCK* WAS GOING ON!
HOW MANY TIMES DO I HAVE TO TELL YOU THAT I *LITERALLY!!*
CAN'T TELL YOU!!
ANYTHING!!

I BET YOU COULD HAVE TOLD US A *LIIIITTLE* BIT MORE.
A COUPLE OF CONTEXT CLUES! DRAW A PICTURE! CHARADES!

MAYBE DROP THE *HINT* THAT BOGARD COULD *POSSIBLY* TURN INTO A GIANT MADE OUT OF FIRE.
ALL RIGHT! *ALL RIGHT!*

I WILL HAVE TO CHOOSE MY WORDS VERY CAREFULLY, BUT I WILL TELL YOU WHAT I CAN...

...AS SOON AS YOU...?

HOW DO I SAY THIS...
I AM AN... EMPLOYEE... OF A GROUP OF...UM...
...CONCERNED PEOPLE.
HOW WE DOING SO FAR?
SO FAR, SO GOOD. NO CRACKLING.
THESE ...INDIVIDUALS... ARE WANTING...TO
YEP, THERE WE GO! CRACKLES! WE GOT CRACKLES!!
DAMMIT!
THESE INDIVIDUALS WANT...TO DO A GOOD THING. MAKE...THE WHOLE WORLD...SAFER.
HOW'S THAT?
THAT WAS PRETTY CLEAR.
IT'S JUST A LITTLE HARD TO BUY BECAUSE THE FIRST TIME WE MET YOU...
YOU SENT A GIANT GRINDER THING NAMED LOUISE TO SQUASH US!!

I TOLD HER NON-LETHAL PARAMETERS!!
I THOUGHT YOU WERE TRYING TO STOP MY GROUP OF PEOPLE FROM...DOING THAT GOOD THING!
IS THAT BRACER THE REASON YOU CAN'T TELL US ABOUT THE GAUNTLET?
THIS OLD THING?
NOOOO!
WAIT!
THE GAUNTLET...
HOW HAVE NONE OF YOU PICKED UP THE GAUNTLET AND PUT IT ON??

OH, WE'RE SUPER COOL.
YEAH, WE'RE REALLY CHILL.
I'M TOO SHORT TO REACH IT.

IT TALKED TO ME. IN MY NOODLE.
IT WANTED ME TO PUT IT ON, BUT IT WAS SO DAMNED PUSHY.
HONESTLY, I WAS A LITTLE AFRAID, IF WE'RE JUST PUTTING IT OUT THERE.
YOU MEAN, YOU DIDN'T SUCCUMB TO ITS THRALL?

I THINK I WOULD KNOW IF I WAS THRALL-ED... SO...NO?

WHERE DID YOU GUYS *COME* FROM?

I HAIL FROM THE PICTURESQUE TOWN OF--
ENOUGH WITH THE BACKSTORY!

IF YOU THREE WERE ABLE TO ESCAPE THE THRALL OF THAT THING...
...I THINK WE COULD USE PEOPLE LIKE YOU!

WHO'S "WE"?

YEAH, I GUESS IT'S ABOUT TIME I GOT TO THAT.
PAST TIME!
THINK OF A MAKESHIFT DAM. IT WON'T STOP THE FLOOD, BUT IT MIGHT TEMPORARILY HOLD THE WATERS BACK.
NOBODY WANTED TO HEAR MY STORY, BUT THIS IS FINE?
SHHH.
THERE ARE THINGS IN THIS WORLD THAT ARE...TOO POWERFUL TO EXIST.
IN THE WRONG HANDS, THEY COULD BRING ABOUT THE END OF THE WORLD.
GETTING THEM OUT OF THOSE HANDS IS...AN IMPOSSIBLE TASK.
BUT THAT'S KIND OF OUR SPECIALTY... THE IMPOSSIBLE.
I AM ASKING YOU TO JOIN US.
TO HELP IN THIS BATTLE.
UNDERSTAND, IF YOU SIDE WITH US, YOU WILL PROBABLY DIE... HORRIBLY.
WILL YOU FIGHT–
–BY... MY...SIDE...
GO TAAKO! GO TAAKO!

YOU GOT THIS!!
SHOW THAT GLOVE WHO'S BOSS!
CRUMBLE
BE CAREFUL!!
DON'T PUT IT ON!!
WEAR ONE GLOVE?
DON'T BE GAUCHE.
POP!
DID YOU HEAR A SINGLE WORD I SAID?!
YEAH, YEAH... "END OF THE WORLD," "HORRIBLE DEATH"...
SOUNDS COOL!
WE'RE IN.
SHE IS GONNA KILL ME.

I'M GOING TO NEED MY CROSSBOW.
TOUGH SHIT!
COME ON.
MY BOY IS NOT JUST GOING TO FORK OVER–
WHA–?
IT'S GOT HER NAME RIGHT ON IT!
BESIDES, I KEPT THE BOLTS.
OH. ALL RIGHT.

"CAUSE IT FEELS JUST LIKE I'M WALKIN' ON BROKEN GLAAAASS..."
FIRST KENNY CHESNEY, NOW ANNIE LENNOX?
DUDE! YOU'RE KILLIN' IT!
SO ARE THERE, LIKE, BODIES OR SKELETONS OR SOME SHIT LIKE THAT IN THE GLASS?
NO.
GOOD. BECAUSE THAT WOULD BE NASTY.
NO, THEY WERE PROBABLY VAPORIZED.
INSTANTLY.
GREAT.
DO YOU THINK WE SHOULD...
I DON'T KNOW...
...SAY SOMETHING?
AHEM
OH LOVING AND POWERFUL PAN!
PLEASE BE WITH THESE POOR SOULS!
GUIDE THEM ON THEIR JOURNEY TO A BETTER PLACE!
AND PLEASE DON'T BLAME US FOR ANY OF THIS SHIT.
AMEN.

I FEEL BAD ABOUT BARRY BLUEJEANS.
ME, TOO.
WE HAD SOME REAL MERCHANDISING OPPORTUNITIES WITH THAT CHARACTER.
MAYBE I COULD COME UP WITH A SON...
"BARRY JORTS"!

OKAY, THIS OUGHT TO BE GOOD.

CLICK

JUST SORT OF WAITING FOR APPROVAL HERE.
SHOULDN'T TAKE TOO LONG.

SCRITCH SCRATCH

SO...
WHAT ARE YOUR NAMES AGAIN?

I AM, OF COURSE, MAGNUS BURNSIDES.
OF COURSE. AND YOU ARE–?
–ALSO KNOWN AS "THE HAMMER."

"THE HAMMER"?
I PICKED UP A NICKNAME A COUPLE OF DAYS AGO.

WHILE WE HAVE BEEN ON THIS LITTLE ADVENTURE...YOU PICKED UP A NICKNAME.
WHO GAVE IT TO YOU?
NOT IMPORTANT.

MY FAMILY DIDN'T HAVE A LOT OF MATERIAL POSSESSIONS, BUT WE HAD AN ABUNDANCE OF LO–
I'LL REMEMBER THAT.
SO, TAAKO–

LIFE IN RAVEN'S ROOST WAS SIMPLE–
PAN, KILL ME.
BUT FOR A LAD WITH A HEART FOR ADVENTURE–
WHAT IS *WRONG* WITH THIS THING? IT NEVER TAKES THIS LONG.

THERE WE GO!! CONNECTION!!
I'LL HURRY.

LIFEINRAVENS ROOSTWASSIMPLEBUT FORALADWITH–
TO BE CONTINUED, PUNKIN.

HUMMMM
GEEZ, I HOPE THAT'S NOT THE GHOST OF BARRY BLUEJEANS, HERE TO TELL US HOW BAD WE FUCKED UP.
FWOOOOSH!
HUUMMMMM

Chapter 10

C'MON! GET THE LEAD OUT!
TNK!
BEZZZZ
GENTLEMEN! HUSTLE YOUR BUSTLES!
THIS THING DOESN'T HANG AROUND LONG ONCE IT LANDS!
SHOTGUN!

I BET WE STEER IT WITH OUR BRAINS! DO WE?

IT'LL BE OKAY. COME ON...

LOOK HOW SMALL IT IS.
LOOKS HUGE TO LITTLE OLE ME.

OKAY, SO LIKE, I'M A LITTLE BIT SCARED.
IT'LL BE FUN! NOT A THING TO BE SCARED OF.

HEY, GUYS! I THINK WE STEER IT WITH OUR BRAINS!

MAYBE ONE THING TO BE SCARED OF.
HA HA!

WHSSSK
CAN I DRIVE?
NO!

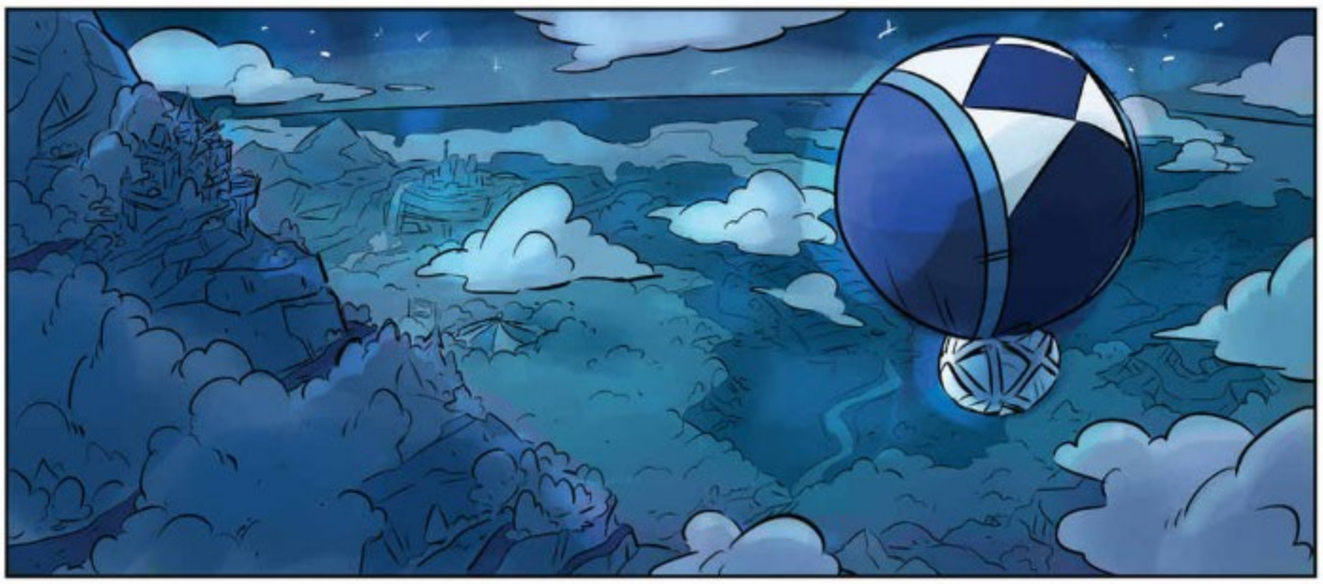
BEEP-BOOP-BEEP-BOOP!

WHAT? IT SHOULD MAKE A NOISE!

HRRRR

WHUMMM

SORRY, HAVERDALE.



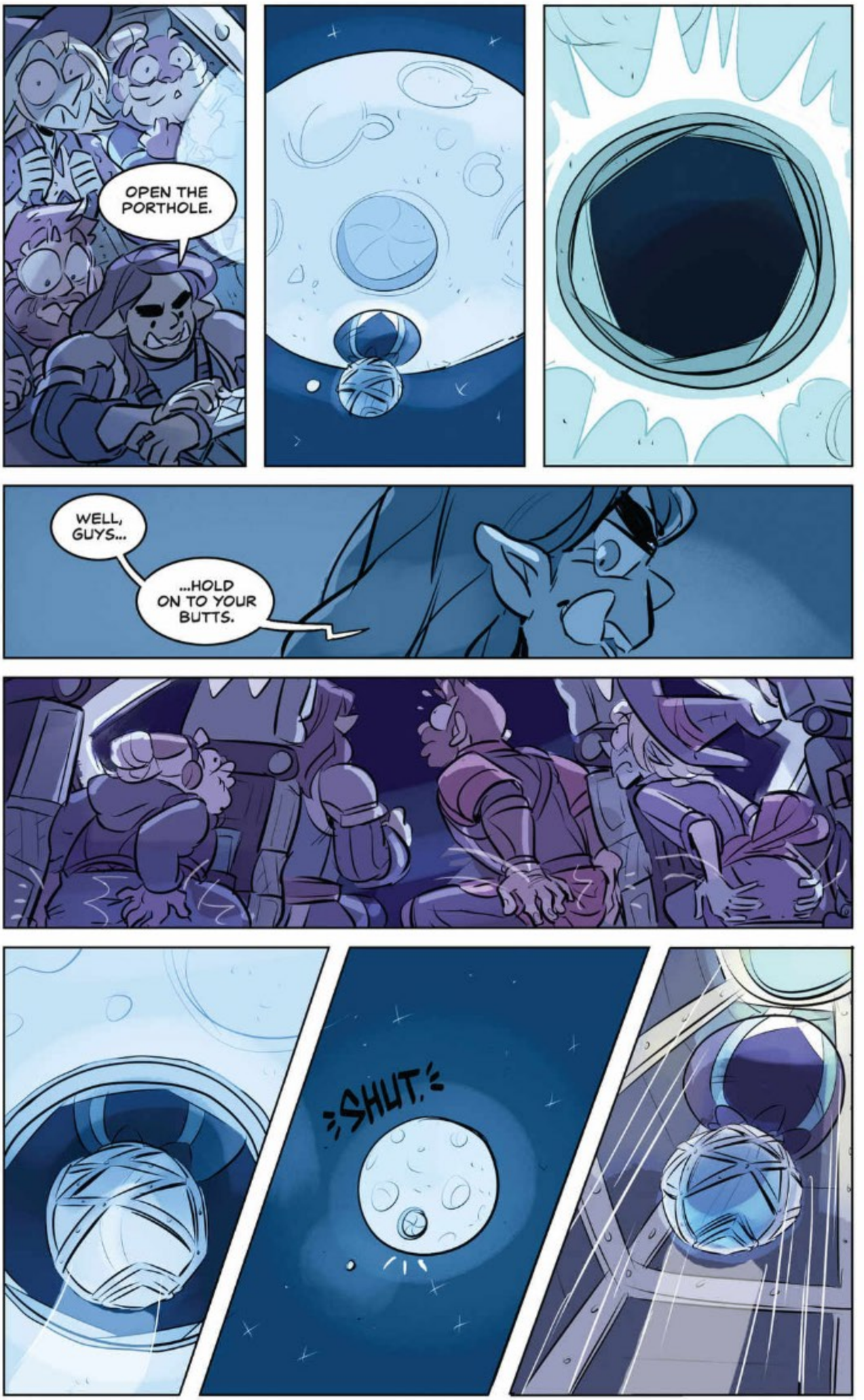
THIS IS SOOOO COOL!

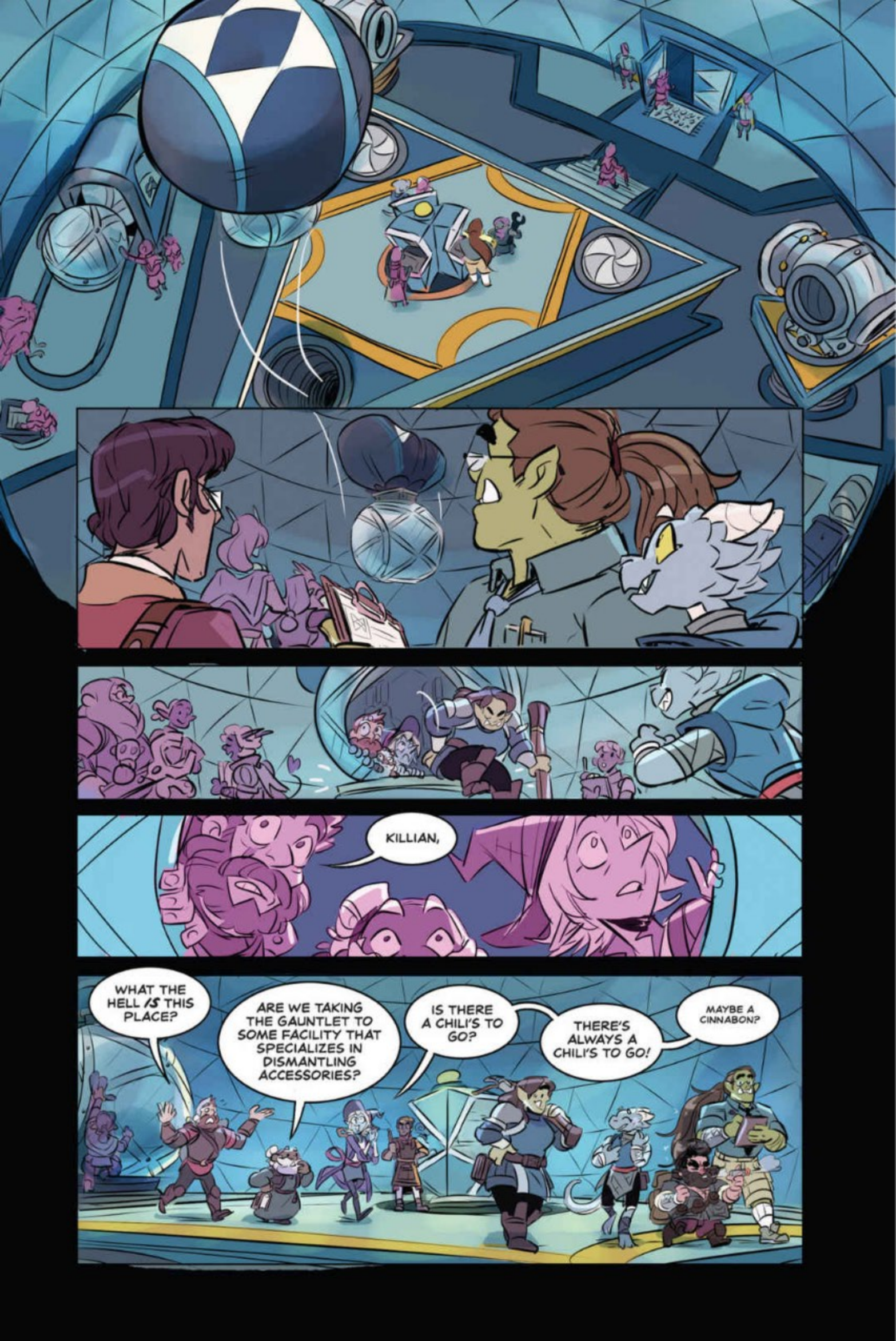
YOU GUYS ARE GOING TO LOVE WHAT HAPPENS NEXT.

WEIRD...

IT LOOKS LIKE ONE OF THOSE MOONS IS...
...EXPANDING?

THAT'S NO M-
STOP IT.


OPEN THE PORTHOLE.
WELL, GUYS...
...HOLD ON TO YOUR BUTTS.
SHUT.


KILLIAN,
WHAT THE HELL IS THIS PLACE?
ARE WE TAKING THE GAUNTLET TO SOME FACILITY THAT SPECIALIZES IN DISMANTLING ACCESSORIES?
IS THERE A CHILI'S TO GO?
THERE'S ALWAYS A CHILI'S TO GO!
MAYBE A CINNABON?

HANG ON A SECOND. I'M FEELING KIND OF SHITTY.
YEAH, ME, TOO. I DON'T WANT TO PUKE ON THIS ROBE.
OH, DAMN! I KNOW WHAT HAPPENED! WE DIED IN THE EXPLOSION IN HAVERDALE AND THIS IS PURGATORY!!
THIS IS NOT PURGATORY.
THAT'S WHAT THEY ALWAYS SAY...
IT'S NOT PURGATORY!
DON'T TELL US WHAT IT ISN'T...TELL US WHAT IT ISN'T-N'T!
YEAH, I THINK IT'S TIME FOR YOU TO FESS UP. WHO'S GONNA GET RID OF THE MURDER GLOVE?
WHAT MY COLLEAGUES ARE TRYING TO SAY IS: WHAT THE FUCK?
OKAY... FINE!
I AM TAKING YOU TO SEE SKRKX
SHE WILL HAVE SKXKX PUT THE GAUNTLET INTO THE SKRK WHICH WILL SKXXS
AND THEN SHE WILL PROBABLY INVITE YOU TO BECOME SKK FOR THE SXXS!!
THAT'S "THE FUCK"!
HAPPY???!!
I'M DOING OKAY, I GUESS.
I WILL BE RIGHT BACK, BUT PLEASE–
moon sweet moon
PLEASE! FOR ONCE! STAY HERE AND
DON'T
MESS
SHIT
UP!

MAN, IF I FELT JUST A LITTLE LESS CRUMMY I WOULD GO OUT AND MESS SHIT UP ON PURPOSE.
YOU GUYS WANT TO COP A SQUAT?
YEAH, LET'S JUST CHILL.
SO, MAGNUS, YOU WANNA TAKE A MINUTE? SHARE? MAYBE TELL US THAT EPIC MAGNUS BACKSTORY?
YOU KNOW WHAT? I DON'T FEEL LIKE IT RIGHT NOW.
YOU REALLY ARE SICK.
HEY, YOU GUYS WANNA TRY—
—A LITTLE SIP—
—OF... THIS?
gulp
gulp
gulp
TASTES LIKE GO-GURT.

IT'S NOT GO-GURT, IT'S BRANDY.
WELL, SOMEBODY SOLD YOU GO-GURT-FLAVORED BRANDY.

THIS STUFF WILL MAKE YOU FEEL A LITTLE BETTER. HELPS WITH THE DISORIENTATION A BIT.
gulp
HEY, DON'T BOGART THE GO-GURT.

I KNOW THINGS ARE GONNA BE PRETTY CONFUSING FOR A WHILE, WHAT WITH THE [redacted] GOING ON AND THE DIZZINESS.
IF IT MAKES YOU FEEL BETTER, EVERYBODY HERE AT [redacted] WENT THROUGH THE SAME THING, SO DON'T WORRY.
IT'S GONNA GET A LOT BETTER SOON, AND WE'RE ALL REALLY, REALLY EXCITED TO HAVE YOU JOIN [redacted]

DO WE KNOW THIS GUY?

SORRY! MY NAME'S AVI!

OKAY, YOU GUYS ARE CLEAR! JUST FOLLOW ME AND WE'LL GET THIS SHOW ON THE ROAD.
CLAP

AFTER EVERYTHING'S OVER, WHY DON'T YOU GUYS COME FIND ME IF YOU WANT TO HANG OUT!
WE CAN BRO OUT!
YEAH, LIKE, IF YOU WANT TO LIFT SOME WEIGHTS OR SOMETHING.
WHAT A SWEET BUNCHA DUDES.
YOU KNOW WE'RE NOT SUPPOSED TO TALK...
...OR MOVE...
...RIGHT?
ALL RIGHT. YOU SLIPPED SOMETHING INTO THAT GO-GURT, DIDN'T YOU...
BECAUSE THERE'S NO WAY THIS SHIT IS REAL!

HOW DO YOU BUILD A GIANT MOON BASE WITHOUT ANYBODY NOTICING?
AND HOW ARE WE BREATHING?
WE ARE BREATHING, RIGHT? SOMETIMES I FORGET TO.
AND WAS GLASS THE MOST STRATEGICALLY SOUND CHOICE FOR BUILDING MATERIAL?
IT GOES AGAINST EVERYTHING I'VE EVER THOUGHT ABOUT MOON BASES!

DO YOU GIVE A LOT OF THOUGHT TO SECRET MOON BASES?
I WOULDN'T SAY A LOT.
IT'S NOT GLASS.

IT'S A SPECIAL [redacted] DEVELOPED BY [redacted]
IT TOOK [redacted] YEARS TO BUILD...AND [redacted] KEPT IT SECRET THE WHOLE TIME.
WE'RE DOING THE MOST IMPORTANT WORK IN THE WORLD HERE...BUT [redacted]

HAS ANYONE EVER TOLD YOU THAT YOU TALK LIKE A REALLY AWFUL MAD-LIB?
BUZZZ!
ALL ABOARD!

WAIT...
...I THINK I KNOW THIS ONE!
...TALL AND TAN AND YOUNG AND LOVELY...
...THE GIRL FROM IPANEMA GOES WALKING....
...AND WHEN SHE PASSES, EACH ONE SHE PASSES GOES...
AAAHHHH!
AUGH
DING!

THIS IS AN AWFUL LOT OF GUARDS...

...AND AN AWFUL LOT OF WEAPONRY.
I LIKE THEIR HATS!

WHSSK!

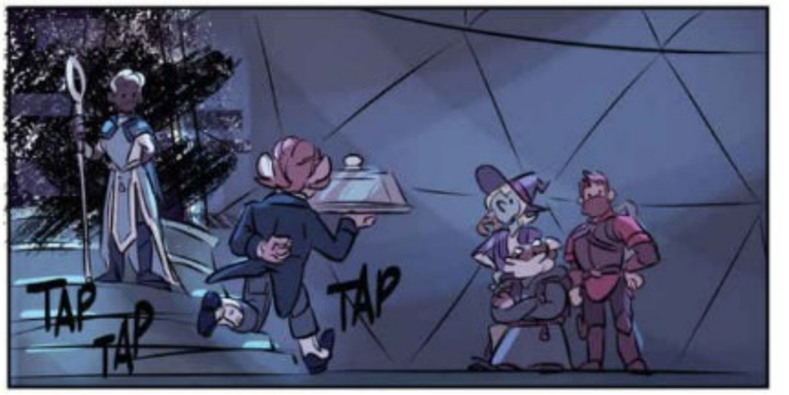
SKXXXKS IS WAITING FOR THEM.

THANK YOU, JOHANN.
YEAH, WHATEVER.

ALL RIGHT. LISTEN, GUYS... THIS IS AS FAR AS I CAN GO.
BUT–
SKXXXRS WILL ANSWER ALL YOUR QUESTIONS. TAKE THE SXXL TO HER AND SHE WILL DEAL WITH IT.
I WILL SEE YOU LATER–
–I SINCERELY HOPE.
GEEZ. OMINOUS MUCH?
WELL, FELLAS. THIS IS IT! THE BIG MOMENT.
WE DON'T KNOW WHAT'S ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THIS DOOR.
WE DON'T KNOW WHO THESE PEOPLE ARE OR WHAT THE HELL THEY'RE DOING.
BUT FOR THE TIME BEING, WE SEEM TO BE TANGLED UP IN THIS "TEAM," SO I SUPPOSE WE HAVE TO START MAKING DECISIONS TOGE–
WSSK!
HE WALKED THROUGH THE DOOR, DIDN'T HE?
OF COURSE HE DID.

DO YOU GUYS SEE THIS?
EVERY TIME I LOOK AT IT, IT'S LIKE I'M LOOKING AWAY FROM IT.
WHAT IS THAT SOUND?
IT'S LIKE A CAT TRYING TO YODEL.
I'VE NEVER HEARD IT DESCRIBED LIKE THAT, BUT YOU'RE–
...NOT...
...ENTIRELY...
...WRONG...
MA'AM? ARE YOU OKAY?

...YES! OF COURSE!
DAVENPORT!!


TAP
TAP
TAP

WHAT DO YOU EXPECT US TO DO WITH THIS VILE-LOOKING SHIT?

I EXPECT YOU TO DRINK IT.
ARE YOU TRYING TO KILL US?
NO.
BELIEVE IT OR NOT...

I'M TRYING TO HIRE YOU.

LET ME PUT IT TO YOU LIKE THIS, MR. HIGHCHURCH.
ON BEHALF OF [redacted] I WANT YOU TO DRINK THAT VILE-LOOKING SHIT IF YOU WANT TO DO SOMETHING AMAZING AND RIGHTEOUS AND GOOD.
IF YOU WANT TO MAKE A CONTRIBUTION TO AN EFFORT TO SAVE [redacted]
AND IF YOU'RE SICK AND TIRED OF HEARING [redacted]!
gulp!
WHAT THE HELL...
gulp.
gulp.

I PROMISE: I WILL TELL YOU AS SOON AS I AM LITERALLY ABLE TO.
THE DIRECTOR IS WAITING FOR THEM.
THESE... INDIVIDUALS... ARE WANTING... TO DESTROY THE GRAND RELICS.
SHE WILL PROBABLY INVITE YOU TO BECOME RECLAIMERS.
WE'RE ALL REALLY, REALLY EXCITED TO HAVE YOU JOIN THE BUREAU!

PERHAPS... THE REASON YOU CAN'T HEAR IT VEN I SAY GRAND RELIC IS BECAUSE THE BUREAU HAS FED THAT INFORMATION TO THE VOIDFISH?
THAT IS THE WHOLE REASON I WAS SENT HERE! TO STOP MAGIC BRIAN FROM GETTING THE PHOENIX FIRE GAUNTLET!
SO YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO UNDERSTAND THIS UNLESS YOU'RE INOCULATED?
THERE ARE THINGS IN THIS WORLD THAT ARE... TOO POWERFUL TO EXIST.
AN EFFORT TO SAVE EVERY LIVING THING ON THE PLANET BELOW US.
WE'RE DOING THE MOST IMPORTANT WORK IN THE WORLD HERE...BUT THE WORLD DOESN'T KNOW WE EXIST.

WHAT...
...THE FUCK...
...WAS THAT?!
SO, BOYS...

WELCOME TO THE BUREAU OF BALANCE!

The ADVENTURE CONTINUES in

THE ADVENTURE ZONE

Murder on the Rockport Limited

Coming Soon!

Fan Art Gallery

The Adventure Zone has been lucky enough to garner a passionate and deeply creative fandom. Many thanks to the fan artists who contributed pieces to this gallery—and to all the writers, artists, creators, and fans of all stripes who have made *The Adventure Zone* what it is.

MAGNUS
RUSHES
IN!
Annie Clementine Johnston-Glick

GalacticJonah

Milkychai

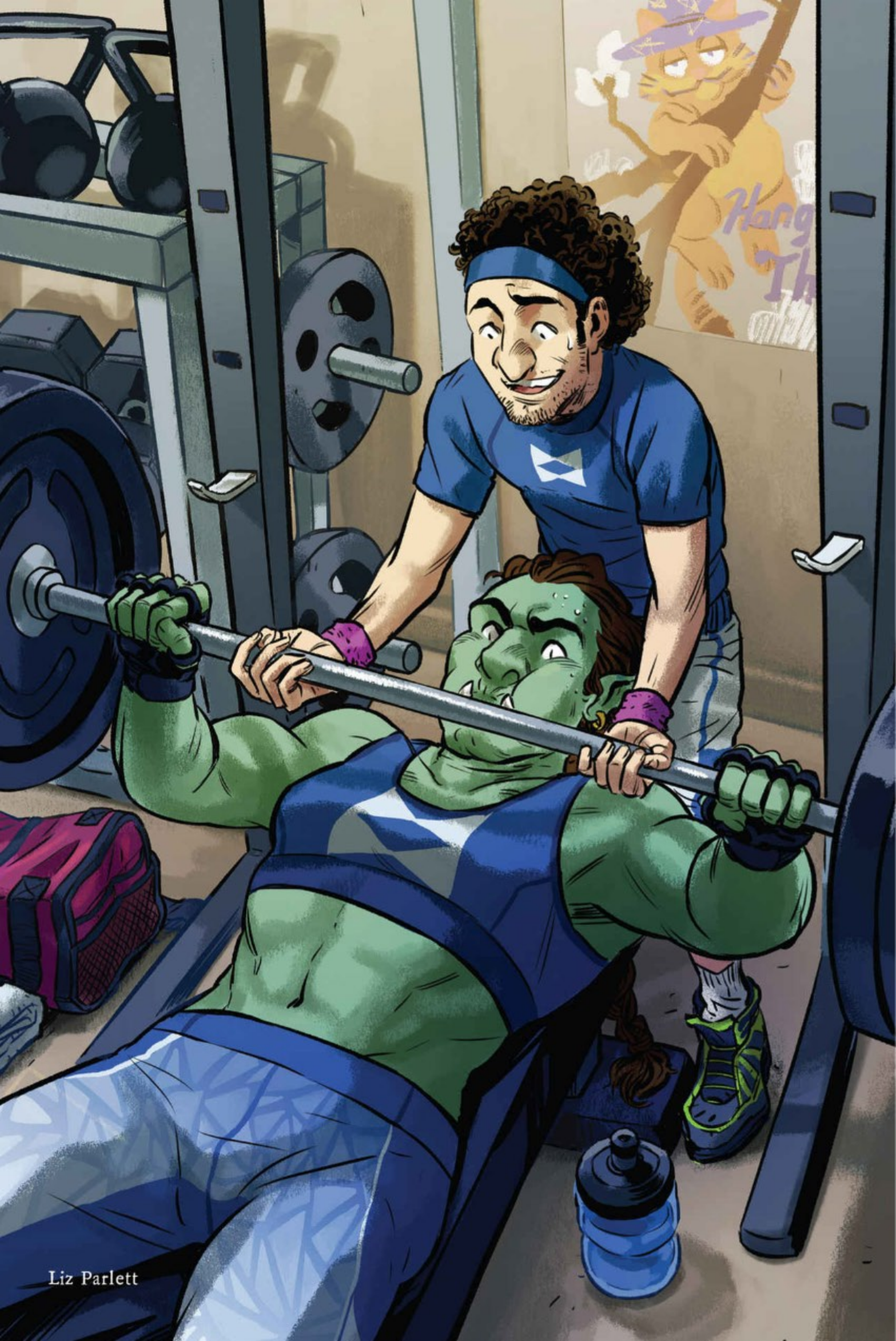
V1 For character levels 1 - 3. 2017

THE ADVENTURE ZONE

Basic Game Adventure

Here There Be Gerblins

Chris Kindred


Liz Parlett

Michael Mayne

Sebastián "Seb" Jimenez

Mickey Quinn

Mu X. Jones

Johanna The Mad

Adrienne Valdes

MAKING A COMIC BOOK PAGE!

with Taako, Merle, Magnus, and Killian!

STEPS 1 & 2
Layout & Thumbnails

STEP 3
Pencils

STEP 4
Inks

STEP 5
Color

BONUS MATERIALS!

Design & Prep Work!

"*The Adventure Zone* is fun, hilarious, and also smart.
Hey, guys, can I have a cameo next time?"

— ADAM SAVAGE, *MythBusters*

"My excitement about this existing
cannot be dwarfed by anything.
You see what I did there."

— JEAN GRAE, hip-hop artist, actor, and comedian

"The warped fantasy lives of McElroy Sons and Dad are
as addictively adorable and unstoppably hilarious as
they are on their podcast (a popular mind comic); but somehow
Carey Pietsch's gorgeous and playful art makes this deep dive
into their beautiful brains even richer, weirder, and more mandatory.
This is a critical hit."

— JOHN HODGMAN, *Vacationland*

"Good comic book, fantastic paper."

— JUSTIN ROILAND, paper enthusiast
and co-creator of *Rick and Morty*

"Gorgeous art—the characters come to life!
I am so happy that this graphic novel is a thing that exists in the world."

— HANK GREEN, *Crash Course*,
The Lizzie Bennet Diaries